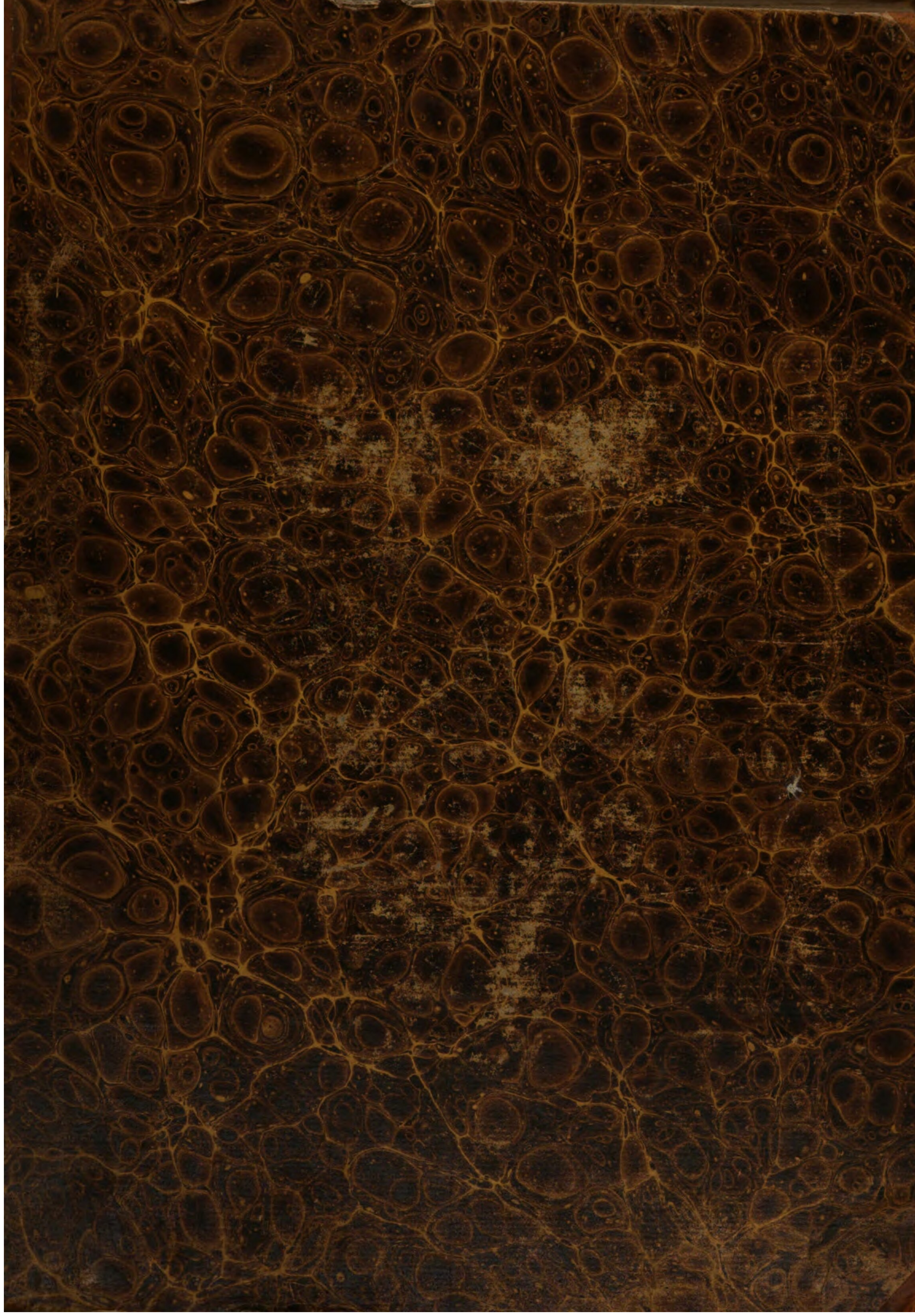
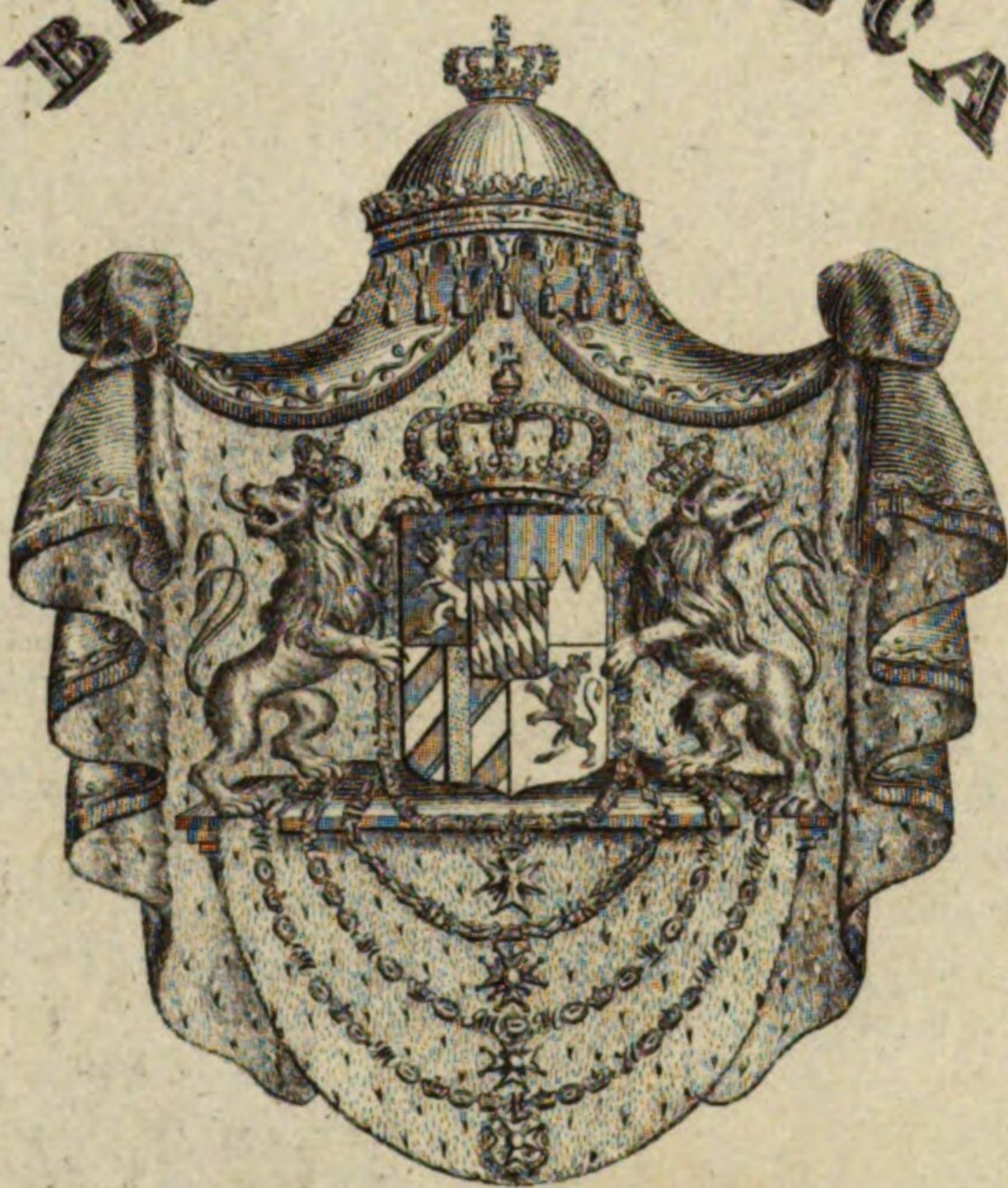




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H I S T O R Y
THE
H I S T O R Y
OF
E N G L A N D
DURING
THE MIDDLE AGES.

HENRY VI. ————— EDWARD V.
RICHARD III. & HENRY VII.
IN THREE VOLUMES.

BY
SHARON TURNER, F.S.A.

HISTORY

ENGLAND

THE MIDDLE AGES

IN THREE VOLUMES

SHARON TURNER, F.R.S.

THE
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VOL. III.
COMPRIZING THE REIGNS OF
HENRY VI. EDWARD IV. EDWARD V.
RICHARD III. AND HENRY VII.

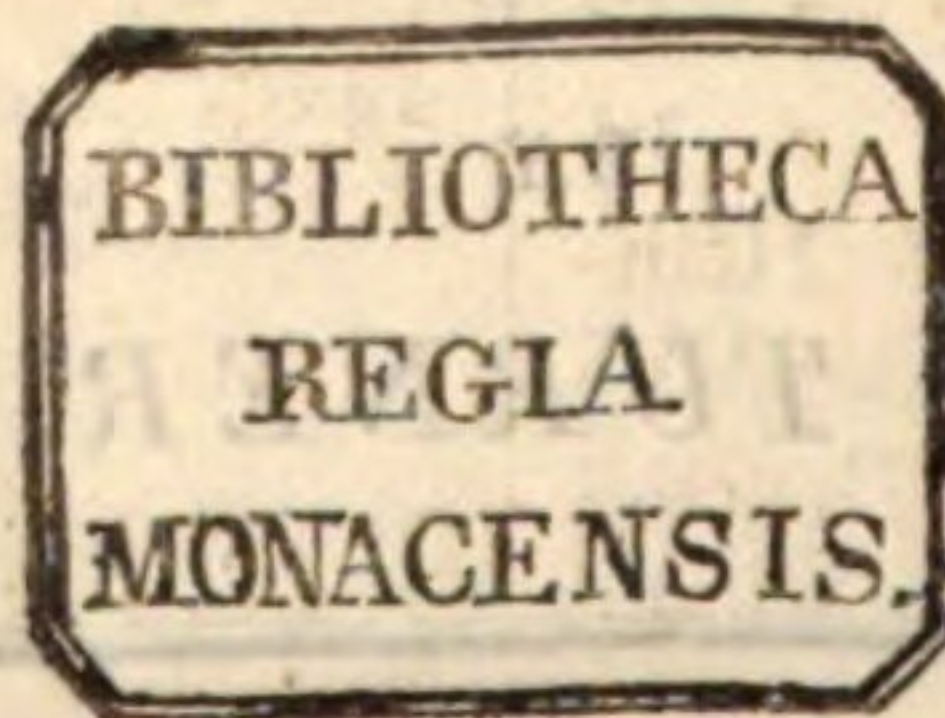
BY
SHARON TURNER, F.S.A.

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1823.

THE
HISTORY
OF
ENGLAND
DURING
THE MIDDLE AGES.



Luke Hansard & Sons,
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P R E F A C E.

THE Readers of the former Volumes of this History, may reasonably expect some account or apology for the long delay of the Continuation, which is now submitted to their perusal. To begin a Work of this sort, and to leave it imperfect, has an appearance of caprice and injustice; which, if it had been voluntary, would have been censurable. This imputation the Author is anxious to avert; he feels that, when he invited the attention of the Public to a new History of England, he contracted an implied obligation to complete his undertaking to the best of his ability, without any protracted intermission. The pleasure he experienced in its composition, would have been an additional incitement to realize both his own wishes, and the expectations of his readers; but the course of life is as little under our command in its individual, as in its political direction. A debilitating illness succeeded the publication of the former volumes; at times so severe, that not only writing, but even reading was often impossible. Enough strength only remained to fulfil other duties of a more imperious nature; and though a strict and persevering self-management has restored a considerable degree of exertion and comfort, during the first part of the day; yet the evenings, so valuable and so interesting to the student, who has the usual occupations of life to pursue, are still the periods of so much weakness and indisposition; that the Author's only security, for a night of repose and a day of efficiency, is an abstinence from all that can enliven or excite, as evening advances. The most retired quiet, and the most forbearing suspension of every exertion at that time, have become indispensable to keep life from relapsing

A 2

relapsing into a state of suffering, which would make it both undesirable and useless.

Under these circumstances, all that could be done, was to use the occurring intervals of leisure and ease, to inspect such original documents, and new authorities, as could be found ; examine the more known ones ; arrange their scattered information ; compare their various claims to attention ; and compose from all, such a narrative of the most important and interesting facts, as could be presented to an intelligent reader of the present day, as not unworthy of his consideration and belief. But it is obvious, that these intervals were to be waited for ; that they would arrive with great intermissions ; and that unusual lapse of time must ensue before the Author could accomplish his wishes.

By gradual perseverance, trespassing inevitably though unwillingly, on the indulgence of his friends, the task advanced ; and this last summer has enabled the Author to complete, by this volume, what he considers to be the second series of the English history. The first was given in the Work on the Anglo-Saxons, which brought down our national historiography to the Norman conquest. The second period, which may be called the History of England during the middle ages, commences at the accession of William the conqueror, and terminates with the death of Henry VII. Here the middle ages of Europe naturally close with the conclusion of the fifteenth century. A new world, quite unlike the former, then arose, from which all our modern history has flowed, and with which it is, and will long be, inseparably connected. In England this begins with the reign of Henry VIII. during whose life all the great innovations, states, interests and establishments, became prominent, which have so marked and elevated all the succeeding periods. Hence the present volume, with the two former ones, may be, not unfitly, termed, THE
HISTORY

P R E F A C E.

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HISTORY OF ENGLAND DURING THE MIDDLE AGES. Describing our public transactions, the personal portraits of our kings, and the main features and changes of our national character and costume ; they are meant to exhibit a period of society, and a course of events, unlike either Grecian, Roman, or Asiatic story ; yet not less peculiar, original, striking, and important. As the history of the Anglo-Saxons formed a distinct subject of itself, ending the first series of our annals at the Norman conquest, so the three volumes of the present Work, exhibit another completed division of our national fortunes, during the middle ages, by detailing the second series of our national historiography. The two works narrate the history of our never retrograding country, from the earliest times down to the year 1509 ; and so long a period of research, will, perhaps, be accepted by the indulgent Public, as a sufficient performance of an undertaking too sanguinely entered upon by the Author, when in the flush and sunny hopes of youth, he presumed to think of writing the history of England, even to his own times. It would be easy, like Smollet, to do so, if only the common authorities were to be consulted ; and the reader had to be told, in new words, nothing but what he was familiar with before. But for any one to dig below the ordinary surface of events, and give more just and original views of the conduct and fortunes of our continually improving and picturesque ancestors, from unexamined sources, a time, an attention, a strength and a degree of labor are required, which make it almost, if not quite impossible, for one individual to give to the public, a complete history of England on this plan. That the present Author, now in his fifty-fifth year, with a broken constitution, will be able to make any advances into the third and last series of it, must as yet be an uncertainty. His desire may be undiminished, but the performance depends so intirely on agencies beyond his own control ; that he can but look at the task, like a wishful mariner on a distant land, which
however

however inviting to his eye, many circumstances may make inaccessible to his personal approach.

Throughout the present work, it has been an invariable principle, to compose it, as far as could be done, not only from original, but also from contemporary authorities; and with few exceptions, this has been effected. Some care has been also used to convey to the reader, either in the text or in the notes, the ideas and feelings of the times, on the events that are mentioned; and to narrate them, as often as it could be done, with circumstances that display the manners of the different periods. This was thought preferable to increasing the bulk of the work, by adding separate chapters on such subjects. Much of our laws and constitution has been in the same manner, interwoven with the work.

In studying the history of The Maid of Orleans, the former materials of it were found to be neither sufficiently authentic nor explanatory. It was desirable to inspect her own account of herself at her different examinations, and the depositions of the numerous witnesses who were interrogated concerning her; both of which sources of curious information, had not been consulted by any preceding historian. M. Le Brun de Charmettes, in his recent work on her, in four volumes octavo, has printed all her answers; and has collected the substance of the evidence given upon every part of her life. And this has enabled me to fulfil my own wishes, of describing one of the most remarkable phenomena that has ever emerged in any nation, to accomplish a great political revolution.

The important effect of the state of our church establishment, on the civil wars, between the houses of York and Lancaster, has not been hitherto adequately observed. Much assistance on this interesting

interesting subject, has been derived from some neat MS. extracts in the British Museum, of our BALE, which he made from contemporary authorities, that have disappeared from our curiosity. The transcripts also in the same valuable library, made from similar documents, by our worthy JOHN STOW, which he has not used in his own chronicle, probably from their having come to his knowledge after its publication, have furnished much new and interesting matter to the present volume. Such light has been derived from these and other sources of original information; that it is hoped, the reign of Henry VI. will no longer be deemed a confused mass of unconnected events, as it has been hitherto described, and indeed too much appeared to be; but that it will be found to be an intelligible and interesting series of important incidents and characters, which in their causes, as well as in their results, well deserve the contemplation, and apply to some of the circumstances of the present age.

In the reigns of Edward V. and Richard III. it has been endeavored to reduce the obloquy under which the latter has labored, to its just proportion; and to distinguish how much of his exaggerated crimes is fairly imputable to himself, and how much to his age and party. On this branch of his subject, the Author has been greatly indebted to the curious volume in the Harleian collection, which is reputed to have belonged to the celebrated Burleigh; but whose last possessor was the historian John Strype. It is a copious register and collection of the grants and public documents, signed by Richard III. Some are copied at full length, but of the largest part only the substance is given. It seems to be the same MS. which is a few times quoted in the annotations in the first volume of bishop Kennett's collection of English historians, under the name of King Richard's Diary, and signed J. S. probably John Strype. Its documents throw new light on many parts of Richard's reign and conduct; and have enabled

enabled the Author to draw this singular man, more in his real shape and features, than has yet been done.

From all these authentic sources, it was unavoidable that many new facts and correcter views of old ones, should be derived on the most important part of the reigns handled in the present volume; but no space has been occupied, in pointing out the mistakes of preceding historians. This would have swelled the bulk of the work, and could only be an unpleasing, as well as an invidious, and an ungenerous employment. A remark of Aristotle, applies strongly to the last writers on every subject, especially on history and science. He says, in his metaphysics, "If Timotheus had not lived, we should not have possessed much sweet music. But if Phrynes, his master, had not also existed, we should never have had Timotheus." Every later historian, whatever may be his own merits or researches, must be greatly indebted to the labors of his predecessors. They had the wild or desert country first to clear and plant; and if some sweeter flowers, richer fruits, or more abundant harvests, have been since obtained or introduced; these would never have appeared, if the former cultivators had not preceded. Each antecedent author has added some truth, removed some mistake, and opened some new views; and the present writer acknowledges, with gratitude, that if those whom he has succeeded, had not published their elaborate or intelligent works, his History would not, and most probably could not, have been composed. He follows in their train; not he hopes without bringing some offerings of his own; but desirous never to be deemed insensible to their merits, or detracting from their praise.

22 March 1823.

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HISTORY OF ENGLAND.

2

BOOK

I.

1422.

HISTORY OF ENGLAND.

BOOK I.

REIGN OF HENRY THE SIXTH.

1422 — 1461.

CHAP. I.

SETTLEMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT.

THE sudden illness of Henry V. so rapidly ending in his death, in the full bloom of manhood¹, when his ambition was reaping its rich harvest, changed the destinies of France; and began a new train of agitating events both to England and Europe. If he had lived but two months longer, he would have been crowned King of France, with the immediate and applauding submission of above half that country, and with the apparent certainty, from his previous successes, his military talents, and his great popularity among the warlike spirits of both nations, of soon becoming the sovereign of the whole.

CHAP.

I.

1422.

Aug. 31.

¹ He was but 36 years old when he expired. By the treaty of peace, signed 21 May 1420, he was declared 'Heritier de France,' 'Heres Franciæ,' and appointed to succeed

Charles VI. 1 Monst. 207; Johnes Monst. 5, p. 185; though I consult the original, I shall quote Johnes' translation of Monstrelet, as most familiar to my countrymen.

BOOK

I.

1422.

On his death bed he discovered one of those secret idols, which the heart cherishes in the fond dreams of its vanity. He declared that he had meant, as soon as he had secured himself on the throne of France, to have undertaken an expedition to Palestine; and to have rescued Jerusalem from the Turks².

As he had equalled, by his victory at Agincourt, the exploits of the Black Prince at Poitiers; and had conquered more of France than any former English king, he was surpassed by none of his royal predecessors, except the romantic Cœur de Lion, whose chivalrous, yet useless, feats in the Holy Land remained still unrivalled. These feats were however so highly fascinating to the imagination, as to invest the name of Richard with a mysterious wonder, which raised him above the ordinary course of humanity.

Henry V. had a love of heroic grandeur and a passion for its fame, together with that intrepid activity of mind which has so often realised its most difficult wishes.

To atchieve exploits like those of Richard I. or to outdo them, became the latent hope of his ardent egotism, which his successes seemed to warrant, and which self flattery as easily mistook for disinterested philanthropy as for religious impulse³.

The great determination of his character; his energies and war-like skill; his general ability; his severity towards all who opposed him⁴; the love of foreign enterprize which he had excited among his countrymen; the migratory and battling spirit of the age; the numbers of unemployed and necessitous persons of gentle birth that then abounded in England and Europe; the interest which the great churchmen had to employ a martial nobility, and a king

² As they were reading to him in the Psalms, in his last moments, he stopped them at the word Jerusalem, and 'said quite loud, that as surely as he expected to die, he had intended, after he had established peace in France, to go and conquer Jerusalem, if it had been the good pleasure of his Creator to have let him live his due time.' Monst. 59. 371.

³ He had borrowed from the Countess of

Westmoreland the "Cronikels de Jerusalem, et le Viage de Godfray Boylion." Rym. Fœd. 10, p. 317.

⁴ Monstrelet, his contemporary, says that he was so feared and dreaded by his princes and captains, that none, however near to him, dared to disobey his orders; especially his English subjects. p. 376.

a king of so much vigour and discernment in difficult and distant undertakings, that their affluence and preponderance might continue untouched; and the support and favor which he would have received from those parts of Italy and Greece which the Ottomans were now seriously endangering, make it probable that Henry would have headed the most formidable crusade that had yet assailed the Mahometan crescent, and might have saved Cyprus⁵, and prevented the fall of Constantinople, and the establishment of Islamism in Europe. A new Christian kingdom might have arisen from his enterprise on the sea coasts of Palestine, which, by occupying, would have kept the Turkish arms from penetrating so deeply and so dangerously into Europe, as they were soon found able to effect, when no enemy existed in their rear, to arrest their westward progress⁶.

But the premature death of Henry V. a few weeks before the king whom he was to have succeeded, not only prevented the fulfilment of this great purpose, and its vast consequences; but soon made the English sovereignty of France a disputed honor, maintainable only by the power of a less-effective sword, and fluctuating with all the accidents of war, until in a few years it was unexpectedly, but irrecoverably broken. The union of the two nations under one sceptre, and the preponderance of such a combined power in Europe, have never become probable again; and perhaps each nation has diverged into greater improvements from their political separation.

It would indeed have been a novelty in human history, if the English government of France had remained, unshaken, during those

⁵ Cyprus was taken in July 1426. The great Amurath succeeded in the year that Henry died, and would have been his opponent.

⁶ The haughty aspirations of the Musselmén, after the conquest of Cyprus, are indicated in the Sultan's letter, as inserted by Monstrelet in his history. It reminds us of the encomiastic metaphors of the ancient Scandinavian poetry: 'Commander of the tem-

ples; crusher of helmets; splitter of shields; piercer of hauberkes; breaker of armour; lancer of spears; overturner of war horses; destroyer of castles; flower of chivalry; a wild boar for courage; an eagle for liberality; the dread of his enemies; the hope of his friends; the raiser up of the discomfited; the standard of Mahommed; lord of all the world.' 6, p. 215.

BOOK.

I.

1422.

those ambitious struggles for political authority, honors, and a participation and appropriation of the public revenues and royal demesnes, which always arise among the great⁷, in every country, during the minority or incapacity of the crown. These contests, from the latter cause, afflicted France under Charles VI.; and from the former, long divided and enfeebled England at the critical period when the crown of France was, according to the treaty of Troyes, and from the power of victory, about to be united with its own.

France had begun to recover from its domestic evils, when the assassination of the Duke of Burgundy, in the presence and with the sanction of the Dauphin by his Armagnac partisans⁸, created that implacable hatred between the friends of the house of Burgundy and the supporters of the murderers, which led Henry V. to the actual possession of Normandy and other places; to the hand of the interesting Catherine; and to the covenanted assurance of succeeding Charles the Sixth⁹. But it was not merely the personal passions of his allies, that continued to Henry this ascendancy. His victories had shaken the ancient state of things in France; and opened the avenues to new changes; and excited the mind to think of the removal of old grievances. A collision began between those new interests, feelings, speculations and improvements, which increased population and altered circumstances were suggesting in all parts of Europe; and which were now urging the active, the well meaning and the restless in France, against many of the old privileges, powers and advantages of the existing authorities.

Among

⁷ Hence, when the two contending parties had assembled their forces in 1410, the King's ministers recommended 'that all the princes should retire to their principalities, and not interfere more with the king's government, nor receive any more pensions or profits, but live on their own revenues.' 2 Mons. 194.

⁸ On 10 Sept. 1419. See the detailed narrative of it in Monstrelet, v. 5, p. 113—125.

Twelve years before, the present sufferer had caused the Duke of Orleans, his great political rival, to be killed in a similar manner.

⁹ The son and successor of the Duke of Burgundy, immediately after his father's murder, entered into a close alliance with Henry, in order to exclude the dauphin from the throne. See Monstrelet.

Among the French nation, the old establishments were chiefly identified with the party called, from the leading counsellor, though not the noblest chief, the Armagnacs¹⁰; and the reformers of abuses allied with those who supported the Duke of Burgundy¹¹. The Parisians were peculiarly clamorous for relief from their grievances and for reformation¹². And although the citizens of a metropolis which assumes to itself the superiority of a preceptor in civilization and knowledge to the rest of their nation, they distinguished themselves for the cruelty of their vindictive conduct. Some of the worst actions, that disgraced the Jacobin revolutionists, at the close of the eighteenth century, were perpetrated by the populace of the French capital at this tumultuous period¹³; and were not unsanctioned by their high-born leaders. But wisdom is attainable only by education and time; and therefore, few possessing it when the sudden demand for it arises, the passionate and uninstructed multitude hasten, like Alexander, to cut through their difficulties by violence and destruction¹⁴.

It

¹⁰ The princes were not pleased if not called by this name. 2 Monst. 206.

¹¹ See Burgundy's petition of complaint in 1405. Monst. v. 1, p. 141. The grand assembly, held by Burgundy's desire, to reform the abuses of government in 1412. Vol. 3, p. 98—124, and the king's edicts for reformation of abuses, ib. p. 166, and Burgundy's remonstrance in 1413, p. 265. See the queen's letter, 4, p. 362; and the complainings of the commonalty, 5, p. 352.

¹² See Monst. v. 3, p. 152, 349, 160.—v. 4, p. 205, 219. Friar Thomas was also distinguished in France for attacking the vices of the clergy and the times. V. 6, p. 239—244.

¹³ Having adopted the white hood as their ensign (Monst. 3, p. 152), they rose in insurrection in 1413, and seized in the royal and other hotels, the nobles, clergy, knights and ladies, whom they accused, imprisoned, then daily drowned some of both sexes in the Seine, or put them to death without law (152—166),

and beheaded some, and fixed their heads on spears (175).

On 4 June 1418, a mob of sixty thousand again rose, broke into the prisons, and massacred 1,600 persons there, including nobles, bishops, women, and officers of the royal household. V. 5, p. 21. Soon afterwards they rose again, burst into the prisons as before, and destroyed 300 nobles, knights, churchmen, and other prisoners, who were there imprisoned; 81. they then divided, and parading the streets, entered the houses of many who had been Armagnacs, plundering and murdering all without mercy. p. 49. An epidemic at this time took off 80,000 Parisians, 46.

¹⁴ The great had their reforms in view, as well as the inferior classes in France. Hence in 1441, "The ministers reported to the king, that the meetings of the nobles were not for his welfare. That the nobles were endeavouring to gain to their party the barons of his realm, the churchmen and the common people,

It was the continued competition of these rival interests, which caused every treaty of peace between the two French parties to be broken, nearly as soon as the festivities for its occurrence had ceased¹⁵. The deaths of the hostile chieftains, from the same cause, made no difference as to the duration of the feuds. Though the conflicting individuals passed away¹⁶, the irreconcilable hostility, of the new and old state and tendencies of things, perpetuated the struggle. Hence the contests continued, under varying shapes, until the desolations of war, and the stern necessities which followed them, produced the internal alterations which were most needed; and disposed both sides to concessions and coalitions, that ended the civil conflict and expelled the invading enemy. But France had to endure several years of warfare before this desired end was attained.

Upon Henry's death, his brother the Duke of Bedford met the Duke of Burgundy in council at Paris, to deliberate on the future government of France. It was then settled that the articles of the peace at Troyes should continue to be its basis¹⁷.

Preparations were made to convey the embalmed body of Henry from Rouen to England. It was placed within a car, on which reclined his figure, made of boiled leather, elegantly painted.

A rich people, to make great reforms, and to place the government of the kingdom in the three estates; and if they succeeded in their plans, he would possess no other authority than the three estates should be pleased to allow him." The King declared, that if he were assured they intended to bring forward such measures, to his prejudice, he would lay all other matters aside, and instantly attack them with his forces. Monstr. v. 8, p. 332.

¹⁵ Thus the agreement in 1415, was the fifth peace made between the factions since the commencement of the struggle in 1405. Monst. 4, p. 64.

¹⁶ Orleans, the first great cause of the evils, was killed in 1407, 1 Monst. 191; their chief Armagnac minister was killed in 1409, 2, p. 130; the Duke of Berry died in 1412,

3, p. 95; the Chancellor and Constable D'Armagnac were killed; the Duke of Bourbon died; the Duke of Burgundy was assassinated, and the other chiefs successively disappeared.

¹⁷ Monst. 5, p. 373. The will of Henry V. published by Mr. Nicholls, amid the royal and noble wills, p. 236, cannot have been his last will, though taken from the Chapter House at Westminster: this is dated 21 July 1417; but his will, mentioned in the rolls of Parliament, as produced by his executors, is dated at Dover, 10 June 1421; the king ends the codicil to it thus 'I have made this will be myself and writen hit in part with myn owen hande thus enterlynet and blotted as hit is, the 9th day of Jun 1421.' Parl. Roll. 4, p. 299.

A rich crown of gold was on its head. The right hand held a sceptre, and the left a golden ball. The face seemed to contemplate the heavens. A canopy of vermillion silk, interwoven with beaten gold, was suspended over it. Persons dressed in white, carrying lighted torches, walked by its side all the way. The queen and a numerous train of princes, nobles, knights and clergy, attended it. Wherever it rested, rows of priests on each side the coffin day and night chanted requiems without ceasing, and masses were said daily for his soul, from break of day to noon, in all the churches of the towns it passed through. At Calais it was embarked for Dover, and the funeral pomp, an unavailing tribute of human regret and affection, was closed at Westminster Abbey. Monstrelet remarks, that even when he wrote, as much honor and reverence was daily paid to his tomb as if it were certain that he was a saint in Paradise¹⁸. A reign of distinguished virtues might, not inexcusably, excite men's sympathies; but a great warrior's fame is combined with such a destruction of life and comfort, that it can seldom be reasonably connected with celestial felicities.

On the 22d October, Charles VI. the king of France, expired, with the enviable epithet of "the Well-beloved," after a reign full of those relapses of disease which had led the great nobility to contest so fiercely for the command of the government¹⁹. He was also buried with a parade²⁰ which, to correct taste and feeling, seems incongruous with the individual destitution of the senseless corpse; and as the last service ended in the church of St. Denis, the officers of his crown turned their maces downwards to his grave, and

¹⁸ Monst. 376. 'On the anniversary of his death, 24 poor men were appointed to hold as many burning torches in the abbey all day and night, each weighing 26 pounds, and three masses were to be said every day for his soul. Parl. Rolls 5, p. 220.

¹⁹ 6 Monst. 1. He had reigned 43 years, c. 7.

²⁰ 'Over the coffin was an image of the king, bearing a rich crown of gold and

diamonds, holding two shields, one of gold, the other of silver, the hands had white gloves, and the fingers very precious rings; the image was dressed in cloth of gold on a vermillion ground, with a close sleeve and a mantle of the same lined with ermine; the stockings were black, and the shoes of blue velvet.' 6 Monst. 4.

and broke their staves, in token that their functions had ceased. The loud voice of a herald was then heard, sounding aloud through the funeral vault, "Long life to Henry, king of France and England, our sovereign lord," which the shouts of others repeated²¹. The Duke of Bedford, who had attended the scene, now became regent of France, while the Dauphin was crowned king, as Charles VII. by the nobles of his party, in the town of Poitiers²².

Thus France became pledged to a calamitous warfare between the supporters of Henry VI. and those of Charles VII. No state in Europe was at this time particularly prominent: but several, imperceptibly to themselves, were preparing to become so; though they were rather pressed into notoriety by the impulse of subsequent incidents, than by their own contriving policy. Man often obeys the event that he seems to be commanding.

Henry the Sixth was at his accession a babe, but nine months and fourteen days old²³. The parliament ordered a new royal title, King of France and England and Lord of Ireland²⁴, appointed his father's eldest brother the Duke of Bedford to be the protector and defender and chief counsellor of the kingdom, and of the English church, when he returned to England; and during his absence invested the Duke of Gloucester the younger brother with these powers²⁵. Five prelates, a duke, five earls and five other gentlemen were named counsellors assisting in the government²⁶. Two years afterwards some others were added, among whom we find the son or grandson of our poet Chaucer²⁷. Certain articles were enacted limiting and directing the power of the protector. The principal of these were that the high officers of state, justices of the peace, sheriffs, collectors of the customs and controllers should

²¹ Monst. 6 p. 6.

²² Ib. p. 11.

²³ Hist. Croyl. contin. p. 514.

²⁴ Parl. Rolls, v. 4, p. 170. The Bishop of Durham was made Chancellor; W. Kynwolmersh, a clergyman, treasurer; and Mr. John Stafford, privy seal. ib.

²⁵ Ib. 174. The Parliament granted a subsidy on wool and tonnage and poundage, 173.

²⁶ Ib. 175.

²⁷ Ib. 201. This Chaucer had enjoyed a grant of the office of chief botiller d'Engleterre for life, from Henry IV.; it was now confirmed to him, p. 178.

should be named by the advice of the council; that wards and lunatics should be under its controul; that six or four of the members should be always present, and on great subjects of deliberation, all²⁸.

When the royal infant was two years old, he was removed with his mother from Windsor to London. The queen sitting in her chair with the young majesty on her lap, passed in great triumph through the city to Westminster, where he was placed on the throne, and the parliament was held in his presence. He was taken back that night to Staines, and on the next day "with glad semblaunce and merie cheere" to Kingston²⁹. In this parliament new articles were made to restrict the protector's power. He was forbidden of himself to grant any favor or applications for right, office or benefice. All petitions were to be read on Wednesdays and answered on Fridays. The majority of the council was to govern its decisions. No individual of the council was to write any letters to foreign parts. On all matters affecting the king's prerogative, the judges were to be called in to assist with their advice. Two very humane articles were added, which do credit to the generous feelings of the legislature at that period. The poorest man's bills were to be first read; and the king's serjeant was to be sworn "trewly and plainly to give the pore man assistance and trewe counsail without any gratuity³⁰." These limitations of the protectorial authority seem to have been wise cautions against its abuse. They tended to preserve the royal minority from the dangers of its appointed guardian becoming its competitor, but they implied mistrust and excited the dissatisfaction of the person they controuled.

When the king was three years old and could walk, he was exhibited in more effective majesty. He was brought by the queen again from Windsor to London, and when he came to the west door of St. Paul's, the protector took him out of his chair, and

1424.
April 28.

²⁸ Parl. Rolls 176.

²⁹ Fabian Chron. 410.

³⁰ Parl. Rolls 4, p. 201.

BOOK

I.

1424.

and with the Duke of Exeter led him on his feet to the steps. He was borne thence to the high altar where he knelt down. He rose and went to the crucifix at the north door, and made his offerings. He was carried afterwards into the church yard and placed upon a horse, on which he was conveyed through Cheapside and the City to St. George's bar towards Southwark, and continued his ride to Kingston³¹. He was considered to be "the very image, lively portraiture and lovely countenance of his noble parent." This may have been the fact as far as such an early infancy could exhibit a resemblance to manly features; but that he inherited his father's "morall vertues, marcial policies and princely feates"³², we know to have become a satirical adulation. He may have been a better man than Henry the Fifth, whose cruelties in his French sieges leave the virtues of his heart uncertain. But as a warrior and a king, Henry the Sixth lived to be the foil not the heir of his father.

³¹ Fab. 412.³² Hall. Chron. 127.

HISTORY OF ENGLAND.

CHAP. II.

STATE OF THE WAR IN FRANCE BEFORE THE SIEGE OF ORLEANS.

CHAP.
II.

THE attack of Henry V. on France was an action of which its nobility could not complain, because both of the contending parties had solicited him and his father to send or lead an English army, to assist their vengeance against their antagonists. But no voluntary transaction could have been more unjust as to its morality, nor more calamitous to himself, his family and his country. It was an act of ambitious self-will on his part, not needed by any national exigency¹, and of interested selfishness in those who supported it, which sought only personal gratification, at a profuse expense of human life and comfort; and which ultimately brought down all the horrors of the most destructive civil war on both countries, as well as on themselves and their descendants. But selfishness never heeds the consequences of its conduct to others, and

¹ And yet, according to a French chronicler of that period, he could say to the legate, who interfered for France, 'the blessed Deity has inspired me with the wish to come into the country to chastise its subjects, and to acquire its sovereignty, as its true king. All the causes for which a kingdom ought to be transferred to another hand or person, pre-

vail there, and compel this change. It is the divine pleasure that this translation should be made in my person, and that I should possess the throne to which I have a right.' Juvenal des Ursins Hist. ch. 6. 1 Charm. Jean d' Arc, 53. On the Applications to Henry IV. see 3 Monst. 140.

BOOK
I.English
possessions
in France.

and rarely considers the remote ones to itself. The circle of its immediate vision is usually the deceiving boundary of its calculations and prospects.

England never had before enjoyed such a flattering prospect of adding the kingdom of France to its ancient insular sovereignty. The tide of conquest had gone steadily forwards to this point, from the battle of Agincourt in 1415. At the accession of Henry VI. or soon afterwards, the English had reduced into complete subjection, the isle of France with Paris, a part of Maine and Anjou, nearly all Champagne, the whole of Picardy and Normandy, with few exceptions, and Guienne in the south, including Gascony. Their alliance with Philip the duke of Burgundy, gave them the feudal honors and military use of Upper and Lower Burgundy, Flanders and Artois; and the temporary attachment of the duke of Bretagne added the forces of that province to the English power.

To Charles VII. the successor of his father, a youth then not nineteen, there remained only Languedoc, Dauphiné, Auvergne, Bourbonnois, Berri, Poitou, Saintonge, Touraine, Orleanois, and a portion of Maine and Anjou. This part of France stood now exposed to the assault of the English, aided by the rest of the kingdom, under the command of the ablest warriors in Europe, who had been formed in the campaigns of Henry V. Few wars have been more calamitous to a country than this was to France².

The duke of Bedford possessed much of the ambition and military

² We may take the description from an old English writer. 'The rich men were spoiled of their goods; the spiritual persons were taxed, and brought low; the common people were slain, murdered, and trodden under foot; women defiled; towns destroyed and wasted; town-dwellers and citizens robbed and exiled, and beautiful buildings cruelly burnt. Nothing was spared which might be destroyed.' The result was natural. "In all things necessary to man's living, penury showed herself. The corn fields lay untilld; the meadows were

over trodden; the woods were spoiled; men went to harness, and no man to the plough; the churches were seldom used for devotion, but many times spoiled for desire of gain." Hall's Chron. 174. For contemporary Frenchmen's more distressing descriptions of the sufferings of their country, see Charm. Jean d'Arc, 1 p. 62—6 and 77. Of these I will select only one tract: At Paris "Wolves wandered at night through its deserted streets." p. 77.

military talents, though not the general mind, of his deceased brother; nor had he Henry's power of commanding or obtaining the ample forces that were necessary to conquer the dauphin's part of France.

The English regents, from wise policy as well as cautious jealousy, sent sparing supplies. Bedford was therefore obliged to husband the troops he possessed, and to be contented with gradual and occasional progress. He placed strong garrisons in Normandy, and endeavoured to conciliate its nobility to the English government. He spread his troops, with those of Burgundy, over the conquered provinces, to keep them submissive; and having obtained the alliance of the duke of Savoy and the prince of Orange, he sent the latter to act on Languedoc and Dauphiné; while the earl of Warwick co-operated with them from Guyenne. Stationing himself usually at Paris, he appointed the earl of Salisbury, then highly celebrated for his prowess³, to be the governor of Champagne, while Normandy, Anjou and Maine were committed to Sir John Falstoffs. He met the dukes of Burgundy and Bretagne at Amiens, and formed a triple alliance of mutual friendship, and to drive all other bands out of the kingdom⁴. He married the sister of the duke of Burgundy⁵, and caused several towns to be besieged and taken⁶.

The attempt of the partisans of Charles to take Crevant, brought on the first important battle. Salisbury collected at Auxerre 4,000 English and Burgundians to relieve it. They suffered much on their march, from the weight of their armour and the heat of the weather. All were ordered to dismount as they reached the place of battle, on pain of death; every archer was to provide himself with a stake to plant before him, and none were to make prisoners till the victory was decided. The French, whom the earl Buchan, the

Battle of
Crevant.
July
1423.

A knight very expert and of great renown in arms.' 6 Monst. 228.

³ 6 Monst. 32.

6 Monst. 35.

⁶ As Meulan, Pont sur Seine, and Cressy, and the castles Mont Aguilon, in Champagne, Orsay near Paris, and Noelle. See Monst. 6. 19—42.

BOOK

I.

1424.

the constable of Scotland, commanded, descended with their Scottish allies from the hill where they were posted, in front of the town, and began the battle. A resolute contest ended in the triumph of the English. Three thousand Scots, who formed the first ranks of the French army, were killed or taken. Their commander, and 400 gentlemen, were made prisoners⁷.

No greater effects followed from this success, which destroyed the only army that Charles could then assemble, than the capture of some castles and a few towns, and the recovery of others which some spirited Frenchmen had taken by scalado⁸.

Battle of
Verneuil.
16 August
1424.

But in the next year Charles was enabled, with the aid of a Scottish army, to assemble a force of 18,000 men, which fought the greatest battle⁹ that had occurred between the two nations since the conflict at Agincourt¹⁰. Bedford marched with 1,800 men at arms and 8,000 archers to Ivry, and receiving the surrender of that town, advanced against the French, who had taken Vernueil. Finding them drawn up in one grand division on foot, without any vanguard, he formed in the same manner. His archers were posted in front, each fixing a sharp-pointed stake, inclining outwards, before him, while the stoutest of these were placed at the two ends of the battalion, by way of wings. Behind the men at arms were the pages, the horses, and such as were unfit for the combat. The French ordered their Lombards to remain on horseback, to break the English ranks on their flanks and rear. Many new knights were created on both sides, and at three o'clock in the afternoon, the English advancing, as usual, with a general shout, which startled their opponents, the furious conflict began, which both sides maintained with unusual determination. The Lombards

⁷ See Monst. 46—8.

⁸ 6 Monst. 52—77. It was about this time of Charles's difficulties that his son Louis XI was born, 65.

⁹ 6 Monst. 90—7. The French left on the field of battle from 4 to 5,000 men, many of them the Scotch troops; the duke D'Alen-

çon was among the prisoners; 1,600 English perished.

¹⁰ It was declared in Parliament to have been 'the grettest dede doon by Englishmen in our dayes save the battaile of Agyncourte.' Parl. Rol. v. 4, p. 423.

Lombards attempted to attack the English rear; but, unable to make any impression on a guard of 2,000 archers, which Bedford's foresight had placed to protect the baggage, they contented themselves with taking what they could snatch, and fled away; leaving the archers at liberty to join their yet struggling army, and by their freshness and unexpected attack to decide the important and bloody victory. Eleven thousand of the French army fell, including most of the Scotch¹¹. That the calamitous results of war have not yet persuaded reason and self interest to avoid it, is an evidence how little human conduct is governed by its better feelings, its real welfare, or its palpable moral duties.

Though many places in Anjou and Maine, surrendered to the English and their Allies after this decisive battle, yet it had really no other effect on the great object contended for, than if so many automatical puppets had been employed to fell each other down. Its evil consequences to Charles were immediately arrested by the division and diversion of the Burgundian forces, which the conduct of the duke of Gloucester occasioned. No event could be more propitious to Charles, than the intemperate behaviour of the English prince at this critical moment. The French king, after the battle of Verneuil, had no prospect of shaking the power of his competitor. He was compelled to remain inactive at Bourges, and he had so little power beyond it, that the English called him in derision, "the king of that city¹²."

It was the Burgundian alliance which had given the English this decisive predominance in France. This fine country was even then too populous, and its inhabitants were too active and able, and

¹¹ Walsingham, who was now reaching the end of his life, in a MS. history of the first part of the reign of Henry VI. which has never yet been published, nor even noticed in English history, nor marked in the Museum catalogue as his work, puts the number of the French and Scotch who fell, as 11,000. He represents the Scottish leaders as having fled from Scotland from the fear of its new

king. He adds this reason for the fall of so many of their countrymen; "scarcely any of them could escape, by reason of the inhuman slaughter of the duke of Clarence." British Museum MS. Sloane, 1776.

¹² Martial de Paris, *Vigiles du Cha.* 7; Du Haillan, (*etat des aff.* l. 2.) represents Charles as amusing himself with gardening and making fine parterres.

BOOK

I.

1424.

and a native king, was too obviously the most beneficial to all their classes, to have allowed England to have kept it long in subjection, if fierce resentments and a portion of its own population had not assisted the English to subdue it. To maintain their predominance, it was the interest of England to have perpetuated the most cordial amity with the duke of Burgundy, yet Gloucester one of its regents, by affronting him began the emancipation of that country, which they had shed so much blood and expended so much treasure to obtain.

Gloucester
marries
Jacqueline of
Hainault.

The daughter of the earl of Hainault, at her father's death, became possessed of the sovereignty of Holland, Zealand, Friezland and Hainault. She had been married to the elder brother of the French king, but he dying she was betrothed to the duke of Brabant, who was the cousin german of the duke of Burgundy. Quarrelling with her second husband, she eloped from him and resided for some time in England¹³, where by her person and splendid inheritance she interested the passions of the duke of Gloucester.

To the astonishment of those who could reflect on its consequences, the English regent, having obtained from the Antipope her divorce from the duke of Brabant, became her third husband¹⁴. Her person Brabant might have surrendered without repugnance, as their hearts were sundered; but her territorial possessions gave him a rank and an affluence which the habits of that period made the most coveted felicity of life, and he refused to relinquish these, when Gloucester claimed them by marital right. Each called himself lord of her dominions, and the territorial nobility taking different sides¹⁵, the country became the seat of an angry war. Gloucester landed at Calais 5,000 men from England to support his pretensions¹⁶. Brabant complained to his kinsman of Burgundy, who met the duke of Bedford first at

¹³ Monst. 6, p. 25.

¹⁴ The petition in 1423, to make her a denizen is in the Parl. Rolls. V. 4. p. 242.

¹⁵ Monst. p. 63.

¹⁶ Monst. p. 108.

at Amiens, and afterwards at Paris, to reconcile the contending husbands¹⁷. The rejected duke agreed to their terms. The favored one refused, and entered Hainault with his English forces¹⁸. Burgundy indignantly, and to the great relief of Charles, collected an army to support his kinsman, and a war ruinous to the in-offending population commenced in Hainault¹⁹. The disputes became personal between Gloucester and Burgundy. The latter answered the regent's censuring letter by a challenge to single combat, which Gloucester accepted; the next Saint George's day, in 1425, was fixed for its decision²⁰. All warfare was ordered to cease till this duel was determined²¹; and Gloucester leaving his lady with her mother, after an affectionate parting with many tears and lamentations, went to England to prepare for his battle²², while Burgundy, to become more efficient in the struggle, had new armour forged, exercised himself frequently, and lived very abstemiously to strengthen his breath²³. Modern times have at least this superiority over the ancient, that they are not obliged to waste the prime of youth and manhood in acquiring the brawny muscle of an athlet, the dexterity of a prize fighter, or the wind of a pugilist. They may now, safely and uncensured, cultivate intellect, taste, the gentle virtues, elegant accomplishments, and unre-proving, if not useful pleasures.

Duke of
Burgundy
challenges
Gloucester.

Bedford, who felt his government in France shaken by this discord, was indignant against his brother; and the council of regency in England, adopting his feelings, received Gloucester with a strong reprimand and a refusal of all succor²⁴. No one profited by the dispute but Charles, whose ruin it averted. The fair

¹⁷ Monst. p. 63, 109.

¹⁸ Monst. 110, 3.

¹⁹ Monst. 115—7.

²⁰ See the letters in Monst. 117—36.

²¹ Monst. p. 140.

²² Monst. 142. Her intercepted letter to her English husband, is written in a tone of great kindness towards him. M. 149—152.

²³ Monst. 162.

²⁴ Monst. 158. The duke d'Alençon, our prisoner, was earnestly solicited by Bedford to take the oath of allegiance to Henry. His liberty, lands, and lordships were to be restored to him on that condition; but to these temptations his high-souled reply was, That he was firmly resolved never to take any oath contrary to his loyalty to Charles, his true and legal lord. *ib.* 157.

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I.

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fair cause of the strife, afraid of being delivered to Brabant or imprisoned, escaped from Ghent in male clothes, while her guards were at supper, and mounting a provided horse took refuge in Holland²⁵. This drew the forces of Burgundy into that country. Its nobles defended her, and a small English force was sent to help. This was defeated; and the Hollanders, attacked by the duke's well-experienced men at arms, and by his archers, to whose mode of fighting they had not been accustomed, were soon beaten and subdued²⁶.

The anxious Bedford had summoned a court of honor at Paris, who, after several days discussion and deliberation, determined that there was no cause for a combat between Gloucester and Burgundy, and that it should not take place²⁷; the English parliament also interfered²⁸. He again met Burgundy at Lisle to effect a pacification, but in vain; and the dispute now began to assume a formidable shape; for Salisbury and other English leaders in France, actuated by patriotic sympathies, declared their resolution to support their countryman, and prepared to join the army which Gloucester was now levying²⁹. The alarmed Bedford again interfered. He procured a short suspension of these measures; when the pope's bull declaring the English marriage void, arrived³⁰ and terminated the dangerous question. Gloucester had found the rich dowry of Jacqueline wrenched from his grasp, and from so much opposition placed beyond his attaining, and he had become satiated with her person. One of her attendants, Eleanor Cobham, had affected his variable fancy; and though her character had not been spotless before, and she had surrendered her honor to his own importunities, yet he suddenly married her, exciting again the wonder of the world by his conduct, as in that proud day every nobleman felt that he was acting incongruously with the blood he had

²⁵ Monst. 167.²⁶ Monst. 177.²⁷ Monst. 169.²⁸ 'It ordered the chancellor to issue letters under the great seal, to empower the two queen dowagers of Henry IV. and V. and the Duke

of Bedford to take the debate into the king's hand, and to make express defence and inhibition to the said parties.' Parl. Roll. 4, p. 277.

²⁹ Monst. 180.³⁰ Monst. 197.

had sprung from³¹. His first wedlock was impolitic, and this unpopular³²; and both were hasty and selfwilled, and destructive of all reputation for that dignified prudence, which his elevation to the regency of the most reflective and enlightened nation in Europe, demanded for its example and its welfare. This injudicious conduct announced too much imperfection of intellect, not to give every advantage to his political rival the bishop of Winchester, his uncle, who was now struggling for the command of the royal mind, and for the predominance in the English government. He and the duke of Exeter were the illegitimate brothers of Henry the Fourth, and had been first intrusted with the king's education³³. The internal state of the country, as to its religious feelings and interest, contributed to increase the differences which now arose between the prelate and his nephew; who is described by a contemporary, as sullyng his cultivated understanding and good qualities, by an ungoverned and diseasing love of unbecoming pleasures³⁴. It is strange, that in so old a world of the same continuing system, always repeating the same lesson, any one should be ignorant that the dissolute vices are the destroyers of personal health, comfort, character, and permanent influence³⁵.

³¹ Monst. 197—8. The duke of Brabant soon after died, Mons. 203; and Burgundy, in 1428, was declared heir to Jacqueline's possessions. Monst. 226.

³² She was the daughter of Rainald Cobham de Stereburgh. His contemporary, Walsingham, says it was deemed a gross dedecus by all the kingdom; and that more shame and inconveniences followed from it than he can express. MS. Sloane, 1776.

³³ Monstrelet mentions that Henry V. had left his son in the bishop's wardship. p. 170. Hall, 115.

³⁴ Walsingham's character of him is, 'he excelled in knowledge, and in personal beauty and gracefulness; but he was passionate, effeminate and devoted to pleasure, which seemed to rob him of his many other virtues.' MS. Sloane, 1776.

³⁵ The curious description of the duke's

state of health, by his physician Gilbert Kymer, which Hearne has printed at the end of W. Wyr, p. 550—9, implies how much he had injured himself by the want of self government. It describes him in his 45th year, as having a rheumatic affection in his chest, with a daily morning cough. It mentions that his nerves had become debilitated by the vehemence of his laborious exercises, and from an immoderate frequency of pleasureable indulgences. It advises him to avoid, north winds after a warm sun, sleep after dinner, exercise after society, frequent bathings, strong wine, much fruit, the flesh of swine, and the weakening gratification to which he was addicted. The work is "*Dietarium de sanitatis custodia*," and contains 26 chapters of medical advice. The last '*De Deo semper colendo, ut sanitatem melius tueatur*,' is worthy the recollection of us all.

HISTORY

OF

ENGLAND.

CHAP. III.

EVENTS IN ENGLAND BEFORE THE
SIEGE OF ORLEANS.

BOOK
I.

Differences
between
Gloucester
and Win-
chester.

Oct.
1426.

THE two principal chiefs of the council of regency, the bishop of Winchester, the most opulent and powerful prelate of the ecclesiastical establishment; and the duke of Gloucester, the protector, soon appeared to the public eye in a state of decided hostility. Their first dispute was for the government of the young king¹. The citizens of London favored Gloucester². Winchester caused many of these to be impeached of treason, and greatly harassed; and also several burgesses of Leicester, Canterbury, Northampton, and other towns³.

But in the autumn of 1426, the proceedings of the bishop assumed a more warlike aspect. In October the mayor was sent for by the protector, who bade him see that the city was surely watched that night. The darkness passed in quiet, but the next morning the retinue of the prelate appeared at the bridge gate, and demanded admittance. Being refused from their number, they collected a larger force of archers and men at arms, and assaulted the gate with shot and missile weapons. The citizens shut up their shops, armed themselves, and hastened to the endangered post. A great effusion of blood became probable, when the

¹ Monst. 6 p. 170.

² Walsingh. MS.

³ Fabian, v. 2, p. 413.

the archbishop of Canterbury, the prince of Portugal, and others, interfered to reconcile the protector and the bishop. Eight times they rode from one to the other, before any terms of accommodation could be arranged. At last the two adversaries coincided in suspending their animosities till the duke of Bedford should arrive⁴.

To him the prelate addressed this angry note: "I recommend me unto you with all my heart; and as you desire, the welfare of the king our sovereign lord, and of his realms of England and France, and your own health, and ours also, so haste you hither; for, by my troth, if you tarry, *we shall* put this land in adventure, with a field; such a brother you have here. God make him a good man. For your wisdom knoweth, that the profit of France standeth in the welfare of England. Written in great haste on Alhallow even, by your true servant to my lives end, Hen. Winton⁵."

The Bishop's
Letter to
Bedford.

Bedford came to England to investigate and adjust the unreasonable difference. The corporation of the metropolis presented him on his entrance there, with a peace offering; a pair of silver basins, gilt, containing a thousand marks of gold. He did not refuse the acceptable civility; but Winchester had so incensed him against the city, that its historian remarks, the citizens received but small thanks for all their labour and cost⁶.

A parliament was assembled at St. Albans, which adjourned to Northampton; but as the disputes could not be appeased, another was summoned to meet at Leicester; and that no angry conflict might take place, its members were ordered to leave their swords and weapons at their inns. To evade this injunction, their followers attended with great batts and staves on their necks, which occasioned the meeting to be nicknamed the Parliament of Batts. These being also prohibited, so determined was their mutual animosity and distrust, that they provided themselves with stones and plummetts of lead, and trussed them secretly in their sleeves and bosoms⁷.

When

⁴ Fab. 414.

⁶ Fab.

⁷ Fab. 415.

⁵ Harl. MS. No. 787, p. 10. Hall has inserted it in his Chronicle.

BOOK

I.

Gloucester's
charges
against him.
1426.

When the parliament met, the protector exhibited six articles of accusation against his priestly competitor. The first charged him with causing the keeper of the Tower of London to fortify it, and to refuse Gloucester admission within it. The second, with contriving to seize the young king's person at Eltham, and to convey him to Windsor, to be placed under persons of the cardinal's selection. The third, that finding Gloucester prepared to frustrate this attempt, he had planted armed men at the end of London bridge, and in the windows and cellars of the houses of Southwark, with bows and arrows, to kill the protector if he should pass that way. The fourth and fifth, that Henry V. had told his brother, that a man had been detected in his chamber behind the hangings, who stated, that he had been employed by Winchester to assassinate him, and that afterwards the cardinal had advised him to dethrone his father. The sixth, that his letter to the duke of Bedford announced an intention of exciting a rebellion, and beginning a civil war⁸.

Bishop's
answer.

The bishop repelled the fourth and fifth articles as calumnious, which the subsequent employment and confidence of the late king sufficiently refuted. On the first charge, he avowed his advice to have been, that before the protector was admitted into the Tower, he ought, as the refusal was grounded upon an order of the council, to have provided himself with a warrant from the regency, permitting his entrance. He denied any intention to meddle with the king, without the advice of the council. He admitted the fact of placing his armed friends, as alleged, but he contended, that they were merely for his own defence, as he had been informed that the lord duke had gathered a company of citizens to attack him. The last he explained to apply to seditious assemblies of certain mechanics, who were dissatisfied with a late statute upon wages, and whom the protector had not suppressed⁹.

From these answers we may infer, that four of the charges had some

⁸ Hall has inserted the charge in his Chronicle, p. 131—133.

⁹ Hall's Chron. 132, 3.

some foundation ; but that on the subject of the first and second, he had acted with the concurrence of the council.

CHAP.
III.

Both parties were prevailed upon to refer the matter to the arbitration of four prelates and four lay lords, who awarded, That Gloucester should be "good lord to the bishop, and have him in affection and love;" and that the prelate should preserve to the protector "trewe and sad love and affection, and be ready to do him such service as pertaineth of honesty to my lord of Winchester, and to his estate, to do." Each was directed to befriend the adherents, counsellors, and favorers of the other; and the bishop was to make an apologetic address¹⁰.

The result.

They shook hands in public, in token of their reconciliation, and a royal feast of great magnificence was given on the occasion. But it is evident from the award, that the result was unfavorable to the prelate. He was removed from the chancellorship. Bedford went the next winter to France, and soon afterwards met Winchester at Calais, where the bishop was consoled for his humiliation in the English parliament, by the messenger who brought to him the dignity of cardinal from the pope. The duke, by placing the coveted red hat upon his head, gratified his ecclesiastical ambition¹¹. This promotion gave him new influence over the clergy, and new claims to the respect of the English people. Worldly honors, though but names, have a magical influence in society. The superiority which we claim for ourselves is always disputed; but that which others give us is respected and assented to.

March
1426.

In this year Gloucester found himself so thwarted by his coadjutors

Gloucester
desires fur-
ther powers.
1427.

¹⁰ P. Rolls 4, p. 297. The bishop was ordered to say, 'My Lord of Gloucester! I have conceived to my great heaviness, that ye should have received, by divers reports, that I should have purposed and imagined against your person, honour and estate, in divers manners, for the which ye have taken against me great displeasance. Sir! I take God to witness, that what reports soever have been made unto you of me, peradventure by such as have not had great affection unto

me, God forgive them; I never imagined nor purposed any thing that might be hindering or prejudice to your person, honor or estate; and for so much, I pray you, that ye would be unto me, good lord, from this time forth; for by my will, I gave you never other occasion nor purpose not to do hereafter, thro' God's grace.' Ib. p. 298, 9. He resigned the seals on 13 March 1426.

¹¹ 27 Monst. 1427. W. Wyr, 454. Fab. 416.

BOOK

I.

1427.

tutors in the regency, that he applied to parliament to have his power more distinctly specified; and declared he would not enter the house of lords, until he knew precisely the authority he was to possess. As he annexed to his application, an assertion of his right to the governance of the land, the peers reminded him that he had been appointed with no title that implied power, as tutor, governor or regent, but simply to be protector and defender, which imported duties not rights; and after intimating to him, that the king was far grown in person, wit and understanding, they advised him to be content; to desire no larger authority, and to come to parliament as usual¹².

The Bishop
intends a
crusade in
Bohemia.

The danger of the church, from the new opinions that were spreading, made the events in Bohemia peculiarly alarming to its dignified chiefs. The destruction of John Huss, by the emperor, and council of Constance, notwithstanding the safe conduct that had been granted him, and the subsequent violences that were attempted, had led the reformers in Bohemia to take up arms for their own protection. A war, not unfavourable to them, was raging in that country in 1429; and the martial reputation of Englishmen was then so high, that it was desirable for the church to have their efforts exerted against those formidable heretics. Winchester appeared eager to undertake such a crusade; and the pope had raised him to the dignity of cardinal, and to that of his legate à latere in England, for the express purpose of his proceeding to Bohemia to extirpate the heretical infidelity¹³.

The self-delusion of the human mind is as great as its pervertibility. Winchester believed or represented his ambition to be his conscience; and persuaded himself that it was right to murder the Bohemians for thinking as John Huss did, though he would have found no language impassioned enough to brand any one, that should

¹² P. Rolls, 326, 7. In 1429, the lords of the council made, with the sanction of Parliament, some new regulations of the exercise of the regent power, which tended to keep

Gloucester from any exclusive authority. See their Parl. Rolls 4, p. 343.

¹³ 'Ad hunc finem,' says Wals. in his MS. History. Harl. 1776.

should have aimed at punishing him for believing, what the pope enjoined.

But his conduct soon showed, that with all his even martial zeal, his conscience was, as it is with most, not the master, but the servant; too ready to obey the interest or the feeling; and as mutable as human inclination. From his own knights, and those whom he could influence, he proposed to raise 5,500 soldiers¹⁴. He inlisted as many as he was allowed to take¹⁵; appointed them a captain¹⁶, and marched with them to Calais. But in France he met its English regent; and after a banquet and a colloquy, the world were astonished to hear, that instead of passing on to his Bohemian crusade, his levies were ordered to join the English forces in France, to aid in completing the conquest of that country¹⁷.

This alteration of purpose, on an engagement then deemed so sacred, was fortunate for humanity, but surprises us by the rapidity of its occurrence. It was on 18th June 1429, that he petitioned for license to go on his crusade¹⁸; and within a fortnight after, before the 1st July he had agreed to unite himself with the duke of Bedford¹⁹. The new pope marked his dissatisfaction of the change, by annulling absolutely his legantine appointment²⁰.

His sudden
change of
purpose.

The cardinal attended Bedford to Paris; and the king, now six years

Warwick
made the
king's tutor.

¹⁴ He petitioned the king, that his quantity of people might stretch to 500 spears and 5,000 archers, with such captains to lead them as he might treat with; and that he might publish in all places of this land, 'the cruciat which is committed to me of our holy father.' 10 Rym. Fœd. 419.

¹⁵ The council granted leave for only 250 spears and 2,000 bows; and ordered the money he should gather to be applied to no other use. Ib. 424.

¹⁶ His cousin, Sir Edmund Beaufort. Rym. 421.

¹⁷ Wals. MS. Fab. 418.

¹⁸ Rym. Fœd. p. 419.

¹⁹ The king's letter of this date recites the cardinal's petition of the 19th June,—states that nevertheless grievous adventures and failures of war had happened *since* in France, that the service of the men was wanted there; and that the cardinal *had agreed* to go and lead them to join Bedford, for the half year which they had indented with him. Rym. p. 424, 5. Fourteen days seem a very small space for all these incidents.

²⁰ 'De legationis officio est penitus absolutus.' Wals. MS.

The

years old; was placed under the tutelage of the earl of Warwick, a favorite of Henry V. under whom he had served in France; a zealous defender of the old church opinions and establishment, and a true pattern of the knightly spirit, taste, accomplishments, and adventures of that yet chivalric period²¹.

From

The appointment of Warwick to teach the king, is dated 1 June 1428. It directs him to cause Henry to be instructed in 'bonis moribus literaturæ, idiomate vario, nutritura, et facetia, ac aliis scitu digna; et super omnia, ad amorem et timorem Creatori debitos, virtutum amplexus et odia vitiorum.' Rym. Fœd. 10, p. 399. Also Parl. Rolls, 5, p. 411.

²¹ The valuable Cotton. MSS. Jul. E. 4. contains Rous's life of this nobleman, with those curious drawings to illustrate the events narrated, which Strutt has published in his *Hord. Angl.* The earl was born 28 Jan. 1381. After fighting at Shrewsbury, for Henry IV. he went to the Holy Land, by way of Paris and Venice, and visited Jerusalem. He then proceeded to the north of Europe, through Westphalia to Prussia, Poland and Russia, repeatedly signalizing himself at tournaments and in battle. He was one of the ambassadors at Constance; and being challenged by a duke, he fought and slew him. His knightly display at Calais, may be read as a picture of the gentlemanly amusements of that day. 'He cast in his mind to do *some new* point of chivalry; whereupon he let paint three pavises, and in every pavise a lady.

'The 1st harping at the end of a bedstead, with a grate of gold on her left sleeve, and her knight, called the green knight, with a black quarter; he should be ready to just with any knight of France; 12 courses, and 2 shields should be provided; and that knight's letter was sealed with his arms; the field, silver.

'The 2^d pavise had a lady sitting at a covered board, working pearles; and on her sleeve was attached a glove of plate; and her knight was called 'Chevalier Vert,' and his letter

was sealed with the arms; the field silver, and two bars of gules; and he must just 15 courses, and there should be two saddles of choyes.

'The 3rd pavise, a lady sitting in a garden, making a chaplet; and on her sleeve a poleyn, with a rivet. Her knight was called chevalier attendant; and he and his fellow must run and course with sharp spears, and without shields. His letter was sealed with gold, and gules quarter; a border of verd.

'These letters were sent to the king and court of France; and among others, three French knights received them, and granted their fellows to meet at the day and place assigned. These three knights assembled on twelfth day, in a lawn called the park hedge of Guynes.

'The earl came to the field; his face covered; a bush of ostrich feathers on his head. His horse trapped with the arms of one of his ancestors; and at the third course, he cast to the ground at his spear point, behind the horse tail, the knight called the chevalier rouge.

'The earl then, with closed vizor, returned unknown to his pavilion, and forthwith sent to the said knight a fair courser.

'The second day he went to the field; his vizor close, a chaplet on his basnet, and a tuft of ostrich feathers aloft. His horse trapped with his arms of silver, and two bars of gules. Then met with him the blanc knight, and they ran together, and the earl smote upon his vizor thrice, and broke his harness. So with the victory, and himself unknown, he rode to his pavilion again, and sent to this blanc knight, Sir Hugh Lawney, a good courser.

Next

From a preceptor whose actions and tastes so closely resembled those of the fabled knights of the round table, then the favorites of the reading and noble mind, it might have been expected that his pupil would have emerged another Edward III.; and yet under a nobleman, himself half a Palmerin, and who had the direction of the education of the king till he was sixteen years of age²², one of the most unwarlike, least romantic, and most humble-spirited, though virtuous and religious characters was formed, not only that has appeared on the English throne, but in any other rank of life.

Henry the Sixth was in every respect the most absolute contrast to every thing that was considered to distinguish the gentleman of his day; and most dissimilar to all that his noble tutor had been. Yet the earl had not to complain of any want of power. The articles which he delivered to the council of regency, concerning the discharge of his trust, and to which they assented, gave him even the power of chastising his sovereign²⁴; and this point is urged

He requires power to chastise the king.

‘Next day he came, with face open; his basnet as the day before, save the chaplet was rich of pearles and precious stones; and he said, that like as he had in his own person performed the two days before, so he would the third. Then came he to the chevalier, now Sir Colard Fynes, and every stroke he bare him backward to his horse’s back; and then the Frenchman said, he was bound to the saddle; wherefore he alighted from his horse, and forthwith stepped into his saddle again; and so with worship he rode to his pavilion, and sent Sir Colard a good courser, and feasted all the people, giving the said knight great rewards, and rode to Calais with great worship.’ Rous. Earl Warw.

²² In 1427 the earl was acting with the English troops in France. Monst. 6, p. 199, 208, 221. Rep. Warw. These articles bear date 1432; so that it was when Henry VI. was ten years old that he began to enforce these.

²⁴ The articles he desired were,

1. Power to remove and name all persons about the king’s person. - - Granted, with certain exceptions.
2. To suspend others from exercise and occupation in the king’s service, till he should speak with the council. - - Granted.
3. Be excused in sickness. - - Ib.
4. “As the king is grown in years, in stature of his person, and in conceit and knowledge of his high authority, and from day to day as he groweth, shall cause him more and more to *gruge with chastising*, and to *lothe it*, so that it may reasonably be doubted least he should conceive of the said earl, or any other that will take upon him to *chastise* him for his defaults, displeasure and indignation; that Gloucester and the council promise, that they shall firmly and truly assist him in chastising of him for his defaults, and support the said earl therein. - - Granted.

5. May

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urged with an earnestness that asserts his determination to execute it; and the lords are requested to tell the king, that this was resolved upon. Whether this discipline was executed too rigorously; whether the awe which Warwick, in the eighth article, expresses that he intended to create, was unduly raised to a servile destruction of the king's youthful spirit, and to the despotic enfeebling of his mind, it may not be just to the earl's memory now to decide. But it is possible, that in his eagerness to keep the king from the defects of a Richard II. or from the early failings of his father, he may have broken, instead of cherishing and governing, the activity of his intellect; and have precluded instead of moderating the healthful, if well-instructed, independence and energy of his soul. But between that discipline which teaches due self-government, and that severity which unnerves and intimidates, there is a nice balance of good and evil to be maintained, on this most delicate and difficult of all subjects of agency, the susceptible mind, which every tutor is not qualified to preserve, but at which no one should forget to aim. A father's feeling was perhaps wanted to temper that well meant, but sometimes exceeding vigilance and sternness, which insensibly becoming persecution and tyranny, produce only listlessness, depression, aversion, weakness and stupidity.

5. May remove the king at divers times into sundry places, as he shall think necessary for the health of his body and surety of his person. - - - Granted.

6. That all the estates, officers and servants of the king's house be obedient to the earl. - - - Granted.

7. That as the king, by the speech of others private, has been stirred by some from his learning, and spoken to of divers matters not behoveful; that in all speech to be had with the king, he, or one of the four knights, or some persons appointed by him, be *present* or

privy to it. - - - Granted, except such persons as for nearness of blood or estate ought to be suffered to speak with the king.

8. That it may be known to the king, that it is with Gloucester's assent and of the council, that the king be *chastised for his defaults* or trespasses, and that for *awe* thereof he forbear the more to do amiss, and entend the more busily to vertue and to learning; they should come to the king, and declare it.

9. That the earl be informed of any complaint against him. 5 Parl. Rolls, 433. 3 Fenn. 7—12.

HISTORY

OF

ENGLAND.

CHAP. IV.

THE SIEGE OF ORLEANS.

CHAP.
IV.

IF the attempt of Gloucester to secure the inheritances of Jacqueline had succeeded, Holland, and part of the country now called generally Flanders, would have become united to the English nation; an event that would have greatly altered that course of things which afterwards ensued in Europe, and which has occasioned much of its present political state. But the duke being compelled to abandon this splendid prize, it had the effect of rescuing the king of France from the ruin that was impending over his affairs when it began; and of procuring for him, nearly four important years of safety, in which the spirits and strength of his supporters were recruited; and to which he was greatly indebted for the acquisition of the whole sovereignty of France, and the expulsion of the English for ever from its possession.

By such circuitous and unexpected agencies, whose results are as unforeseen as they are uncontrollable by man, are the changes of human fortunes produced.

When the reconciliation with Burgundy, and the termination of his brother's feuds with Winchester, permitted Bedford to direct his whole attention to his warfare against Charles, for the yet unsubdued parts of France, which were those that extended from the

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the Loire to Aquitaine; he began his campaign with a well-appointed force of 20,000 men.

So much had been accomplished by his brother and himself, when the French means of resistance had been the greatest, that it seemed rather a certainty than an expectation, that the provinces beyond the Loire, in the present enfeebled state and credit of Charles, must fall before a renewed and resolute attack.

But human calculations of military triumphs, have been often nearest to their discomfiture, when it has seemed mere captiousness to doubt them. The victory at Borodino, and occupation of Moscow, which alarmed Europe with the despair of final subjugation to Napoleon, were the preparing causes of his immediately-advancing ruin. The formation of projects, and the combinations of the means that promise to be most effective, are in our power; but the issue is so notoriously beyond our control, that the wisest antients believed that they depended far less upon human skill, than upon a power, which they named fortune; which is sometimes called chance; which others term destiny; but which the most observing minds believe to be, the awarding will of an intelligent and overruling government, conducting all things to the fittest ends, by plans, peculiarly its own, and by instruments and through channels, often so inconsiderable and so unobvious to human judgment, that only such a director could give them pertinency and success.

1428.

Regent orders
the siege of
Orleans.

On the earl of Salisbury's arrival, with a reinforcement of 6,000 men, Bedford held many councils at Paris, to settle the wisest plan for prosecuting the war¹. The English had felt the importance of Orleans, in a defeat they had suffered by an attack from it, two years before²; and from the position of this city, it was obvious, that

¹ 6 Monst. 229. Salisbury's indenture with the king, was to have always with him 600 men at arms, 6 chevaliers bannarets, 34 chevaliers bachelers, and 1,700 archers. His wages were 6*s.* 8*d.* a day for himself, 4*s.* for each banneret, 2*s.* for each bachelor, 12*d.* for

each man at arms, and 6*d.* for each archer. 16 Rym. 392.

² 6 Monst. 200; and the ancient Chronique sans titre, printed by Godefray in his Recueil des Histories de Charles VII. The earls of Warwick and Suffolk retreated from Montargis,

that its capture would subject the provinces of Blesois and Touraine, and at no long interval Poitou, to the authority of its conquerors³. It was reasonable to presume, that after such a triumph, the rest of the kingdom would, from the natural hopelessness of despair, as well as from a want of the due means of resistance, submit quietly to the dominion of Henry; and that the reign of a French dynasty would cease in France. Charles himself, thought that if Orleans was taken by the English, it would be the final blow both to himself and his kingdom⁴. The immediate siege of Orleans was therefore resolved upon; and Salisbury, the ablest general of the English, was appointed to conduct it. On the issue of this attack, the independence of the French nation, and all those results to Europe which have since flowed from its power, principally, if not wholly, depended.

The fortunes of a great nation have seldom rested so intirely on the fate of a single and secondary town.

The military importance of this place being fully perceived by both parties, nothing was omitted for its attack or defence, that prudence and valor could supply. Charles sent thither his most expert and faithful officers⁵. The citizens emulously prepared for a persevering resistance. They destroyed a fine suburb over the Loire, on the south of the city, that would have favored the approaches of the assailants. They taxed themselves to provide the supplies they needed; and other French towns sent them money and provisions⁶. Salisbury advanced with steady judgment. He made himself master of all the contiguous places that could assist his operations; and on the 12th October 1428, pitched his camp on

Orleans besieged, 12
October,
1428.

Montargis, which they were besieging, having lost from 1,000 to 1,500 men (Monst. 202), and leaving several mortars, cannons and provisions. Chron.

³ Villaret. Hist. de France.

⁴ Monst. 6. p. 238.

⁵ Three of these were, the celebrated LAHIRE, who had driven Warwick from Mon-

targis; the Chevalier POTON DE SAINTRAILLES: and DUNOIS, the natural son of the duke of Orleans, whom Burgundy had murdered, (Monst. 116,) and who in his childhood had sworn to avenge his father. These three heroic men were the great bulwarks of France in that day of chivalry and battle.

⁶ Le Maire, Hist. et Antiq. d'Orleans.

on the south of the city, cutting off thereby its communications with Charles. It was not however for some time so surrounded, but that the besieged could obtain both provisions and stores⁷.

The French had worked night and day to construct a strong bulwark, called the Tournelles. It stood upon the bridge, and was connected with the land by an arch of stone, and a draw-bridge. The arrival of the English interrupting its completion, the garrison set on fire what remained of the suburb, and its church. The flames preventing the English from advancing, the French, protected by the burning ruins, finished the work of defence. It was formed of faggots strongly bound together, and supported by great stakes driven deep into the ground, the intervals being stuffed with earth and ruins⁸.

In less than a week the English artillery cannonaded the city, and a young woman was the first person killed. The French sallies were vigorous and frequent. Salisbury, to gain the Tournelles, proceeded to undermine it, but at the same time attempted an assault. As the English advanced with their ladders and machines, the chief warriors hastened to the endangered point. Massy stones were hurled on the assailants; showers of lime and burning ashes, boiling oil and water, that penetrated beneath their armor, and hoops of red hot iron, were used, in addition to the sword and lance, to resist the resolute attack. The women of the city in every part carried, amid the arrows and missiles that were flying around, fruit, wine and drink, to their toiling countrymen, or hastened to dress their wounds; while others heated the liquids and iron, and brought the stones that were projected. Some had even

⁷ Monst. 238.

⁸ Journal du Siege. M. Le Brun des Charmettes in his *Historie de Jeanne d'Arc*, 4 vol. 8°, has collected with care and judgment, the principal facts of this celebrated siege from ancient documents. Of these the two chief authorities are the 'Journal du Siege,' a parchment MS. written at the time, found in the archives of the city, and printed

in 1576, and Godefray's *Chronique sans titre*. I am indebted to him for my references to these valuable contemporary documents. His authorities for the conduct and actions of his heroine, are her own examinations, and the numerous depositions of the witnesses who knew or acted with her. These make his work far superior to all others on this subject.

even the strength and courage to handle spears, and were seen on the rampart, pushing the ascending English into the ditch below⁹.

Four hours the destructive conflict lasted, when Salisbury sounded a retreat, and urged on his miners. These men worked night and day, till the defence was hollowed, and the combustibles prepared. The French, perceiving they must lose it, applied flames themselves, and abandoned it. They cut off an arch of the bridge behind it, and raised another rampart in the middle of the river, nearer to the city, from which they cannonaded the English camp¹⁰.

The inhabitants were cheered after the loss of the Tournelles, by the arrival of Dunois and La-Hire, with several brave captains, and a reinforcement of 800 archers, cross-bowmen, and Italian infantry; and Salisbury perceiving, from the bravery of the defence, that this new force would prolong the defence into the winter, resolved to surround the city with a chain of forts, and to reduce it by famine. He had given the command of the ruins of the Tournelles to Glasdale¹¹, one of his most determined officers, who repaired it; and he now visited himself this spot, to survey the surrounding locality, and to fix the most effectual stations. He placed himself at a window on the second floor; and while Glasdale was directing him to the position where he could command the completest view, with the flattering expression, "Look from this place, my lord, on your city!" a stone ball, shot from some part of the defences, struck the side of the window, within which, on hearing the report, Salisbury had withdrawn his head. Though he threw himself back,

⁹ Chronique sans titre. Journal du Siege. Monst. 235.

¹⁰ Chronique sans titre.

¹¹ The French Chronique calls him Glau-cidas, and describes him as a man 'de hault courage, mais de toute tyrannie et orgueil.' Walsingham gives us his real name 'William Glasdale.' MS. Sloane 1776. The Chronique

states him to have declared, that when he should enter the city 'he would put every one to death, women as well as men, without sparing any.' If such were his intentions, he had not the dismal gratification he expected, as he perished himself before the siege was decided.

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I.

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back, it reached him, carried away his eye and half his face, and extended him senseless on the body of a gentleman behind him. He was borne off bleeding, but not dead; and on his recovering recollection, full only of his military project, though in that melancholy state, he exhorted his officers not to abandon the siege¹². The calamity was concealed from the army for two days, but no skill could benefit him; and he soon after expired, with the general lamentation of his army. He died, with the praise from his enemies of being the bravest and hardiest knight in England, and who had done the greatest damage to the king of France¹³.

The duke of Suffolk, who had also been trained under Henry V. was now appointed to conduct the siege. He was inferior to Salisbury in talent and in success, but he wisely pursued the plans of his predecessor, passed some troops over the Loire, who took the bridges and towns of Meung and Jargeau; and was joined by lord Talbot, a celebrated English warrior, with a large supply of English and Burgundian troops, and artillery¹⁴.

The defenders of Orleans, perceiving the intention of the English to extend the siege to the east, north, and west of the city, set fire to several churches in those directions, that the assailants might not convert them to lodgments of annoyance. The English built many forts around, and bombarded the town with unceasing perseverance. The inhabitants had little rest. In the midst of the night, the dismal sound of their great bell was perpetually calling them to some part of their endangered walls; and both parties strove to excel in the size of their cannonaded projectiles. The solemnities and festivities of Christmas gave a short interval of repose¹⁵. The English lords requested of the French commanders, that

¹² Journal. Chronique. Monst. 236.

¹³ So Alain Chartier expresses himself in his Chron. de Charles VII. The Journal d'un bourgeois de Paris, living at the time, intimates that while Salisbury lived, the duke of Bedford might enjoy his leisure. Monstrelet says, that Salisbury was much feared and beloved

by his army, and considered as the most subtle, expert and fortunate in arms of all the English captains, 237. The official letter of Gloucester, and the English council, strongly lament his loss. See des Charmettes. 135.

¹⁴ Journal du Siege.

¹⁵ Journal du Siege.

that they might have a night of minstrelsy, with trumpets and clarions. This was granted; and the horrors of war were suspended by melodies, that were felt to be delightful. The truce of rejoicing ended, the cannons recommenced their fury. Fierce conflicts ensued, as the English endeavoured to plant themselves at different stations; and individuals signalized themselves by defiances, and personal combats¹⁶.

The year 1429 began with new attacks, and their repulses. Defeated in a sally on the first of January, during the next night, while the garrison were recruiting themselves by sleep from the labors of the day, in a midnight of total darkness, amid torrents of rain, the French centinels suddenly heard the English planting their ladders at one of their gates. Instantly the alarm-cry was raised, the belfry sounded a furious peal, and all who waked hurried to the assaulted post, till the English, who had hoped to surprize, were at length driven off. This animating success was followed by the arrival of a supply of provisions, of which the town began to feel the need. But in the middle of the following night, loud trumpets, that announced an instant peril, roused them from repose. The besiegers were again assaulting; the besieged were again on the walls. The artillery was fired at random in the utter darkness, or was directed only by the moving sounds of the battle. After vigorous exertions, the English again retired¹⁷.

Sallies, arrival of provisions, and assaults succeeded each other during this wintry month. Both nations continued to feel, that the sceptre of the whole kingdom was contended for on the walls of Orleans. The garrison had now defended it for four months, but as their means diminished, some of their greatest captains went to urge the French king to make efforts to relieve them, and a force was collected of French and Scots for this purpose¹⁸.

While this expedition was preparing, its commanders were informed, that Sir John Falstoff, with a large supply for the English

1429.

¹⁶ Journal.¹⁷ Journal.¹⁸ Journal.

BOOK

I.

1429.

Battle of
Herrings,
12 Feb.

English army, was advancing from Paris to the entrenchments; they resolved to intercept it, and marched to his line of progress. The English were proceeding in file, careless and unsuspecting, when the first French division, that arrived, perceived them, and was desirous to make an immediate attack before they could be formed. The caution of the Count de Clermont, opposed in vain by the valiant and experienced La-Hire, declined this bold but sagacious advice¹⁹. Falstoff had but 600 Englishmen with him, though other forces, composed of men of several nations, increased it to 1,700 men. He halted at Roucroy, and formed them into a square, with their carts and carriages, leaving but two openings. In this square they inclosed themselves, putting their archers at the entrances, and the men at arms supporting them.

The French commanders, whose army was from 3,000 to 4,000 men, disputed with each other as to the mode of attacking it. The Scots were for fighting on foot. The others on horseback. The Scots dismounted, and attacked as they preferred. Their leaders soon perished with unavailing bravery²⁰.

The fierce attacks were repulsed at every point, and a splendid victory at this battle of Herrings, as it was called, from the kind of provisions of which the convoy chiefly consisted, gave a new lustre to the English reputation; and seemed to ensure the fall of Orleans²¹.

Some of the survivors of the conflict, mostly wounded, escaped into the city. Its defenders were afflicted but not disheartened. The unfortunate Count de Clermont, left it with La-Hire and his partizans; but Dunois, then in the full bloom of youthful manhood, St. Severe, and Saintrailles, continued with the garrison. It was now near the end of February, and the hope of deliverance every day declined; the besiegers had increased to 23,000 men. Their works and fortifications called bastiles, had multiplied round the city. The king, who had little else than

¹⁹ Journal.²⁰ Monst. 230—2.²¹ Journal. Chronique. Charmettes, 169—181.

than the name of royalty, had no further resources for their assistance.

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IV.

Dunois felt it to be impossible to defend the place much longer. He therefore assented to the wish of the besieged, to propose to put the city in a sort of neutral pledge into the possession of the duke of Burgundy, till it became decided whether Charles VII. or Henry VI. would acquire the permanent sovereignty of France²².

During the absence of Saintrailles, and others, deputed to make Burgundy this offer, new combats about the walls took place; but the mind is gratified by reading the noble courtesies that passed between the contending chiefs. Suffolk, Talbot and Scales, sent one day by a herald, a dish of figs, raisins and dates, to Dunois, who returned by the same herald, to Suffolk, some black plush, that he desired, to line his dress with in that rigorous season²³.

A great swelling of the river, at the end of February, excited in Orleans a temporary hope, that the waves would ruin three of the English fortifications which commanded the river; and severely cannonaded the town. The waters rose with a violent torrent to the height of the embrasures; but the solidity of the work endured the shock; and the exertions of the English repelled the danger, and repaired the damage. Even during their struggle with the threatening element, they thundered their usual discharges on the city.

Suffolk ordered a trench to be dug, to make a shorter and a covered communication between his besieging points. The French attempted a bold sally on the workmen, in which they killed lord Grey, a knight of admired prowess, and nephew of Salisbury. This success encouraged them to try a similar effort, with larger

²² The feudal lord of the city was the duke of Orleans, who had been taken prisoner at Agincourt, and was still detained in England. Journal. Conditional surrenders were frequent in this war.

²³ Journal.

²⁴ Journal.

²⁵ Journal.

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larger numbers; and they were carrying off a cannon, that had projected many heavy stones, and had secured other booty, when the English, rushing from their contiguous lines, drove them to the ramparts. A fierce combat ensued at the very walls, till all the French who could not get through the narrow sally-port into the place, were killed or taken. Some leapt into the ditch, to escape the English swords, and were there overwhelmed with stones from their own countrymen above, who, in the confusion and alarm, mistook them for their enemies²⁶.

The Marechal de Sainte Severe, quitting Orleans with his troops, diminished the spirits and safety of its defenders; and to increase their despondence, Suffolk directed a terrible cannonade from all his batteries on the city, which beat down many of its buildings, and spread general consternation. The garrison made another resolute sally, which was repelled; repeated, and repelled again. Rumors, that some meant to deliver up the place, compelled the bravest citizens to pass the nights under arms, on the walls, or in the forts. Fresh sallies and repulses again ensued. Thus destructively employed, March passed, and April began²⁷.

Combat of
the Pages.

A new scene now gave a short variety to the military drama. The French and English pages, who followed their respective lords, caught the full fever of the national animosity of their masters, and defied each other to a separate combat. They were permitted to engage, according to a settled convention. Each party floated their standard, and chose their captain. Aymar de Puiseux, whom La-Hire had called Golden Head, from his yellow hair, commanded the French pages. The young English leader is not named. Their defensive armor was but a slight shield of osier. A mutual discharge of stones from hands and slings began the battle, and a close combat followed. The first day the French prevailed; but on the second the English carried off the standard, and dispersed their antagonists²⁸.

In

²⁶ Journal Siege.²⁷ Journal Siege.²⁸ Journal Siege.

In the middle of April, the deputies returned with the disappointing news, that the regent, without consulting Burgundy, had rejected the conditional proposal. The duke, whom it had gratified, was offended at the mode of the refusal, and sent a herald, to order all his troops to leave the camp of the besiegers²⁹. This was obeyed; but the English were numerous enough to continue the siege.

Apprised that their surrender, if made, must be to the English, the people of Orleans were inflamed with a new spirit, and swore to defend themselves to their last breath; and expressed their determination on the following night, in a furious attack on their besiegers lines. It was at first successful, the English were surprised in their sleep, and were slaughtered without mercy; but the booty which the French collected and stayed to carry off, detained them till the alarm roused the camp, and then, as the dawn spread around, English cavalry intercepted their return. The loss was great on both sides, but the equality of its numerical amount was to the disadvantage of the city, whose defenders were becoming insufficient for their various duties³⁰.

Sixty English bastiles or forts, now guarded their lines and beleaguered the place.

The French king was now in despair. His hereditary throne seemed to vanish from him. He saw no further hope. He was meditating to retire into Spain or Scotland³¹. His council opposed this step; but recommended him to withdraw from Chinon into Dauphiny, or to the mountains of Auvergne, as soon as Orleans should fall. The beautiful Agnes Sorrel is stated to have interposed, and to have saved France by her heroism, or her superstitions. She told the king, that when she was a girl, an astrologer had assured her, that she should be loved and served by one of the bravest

Despair of
Charles.

²⁹ Journal S. ³⁰ Journal S.

³¹ So N. Sala mentions, in his *Exemples de hardisse de plusieurs reys*. MS. Fr. Bibl. du Roi 4° 180. He had this fact from a Seig-

neur, who, in his youth, had been so much esteemed by Charles, that the king would suffer none but him to sleep in his bed. Charmettes, p. 216.

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bravest kings of Christendom. That when he first honored her with his affection, she had applied the prediction to him; but if this should prove untrue, and the king of England, whose arms were so successful, should be the sovereign, "I will go and find him out," she is said to have added, "for he must be the person whom the astrologer described to me³²." This pretty story must be a fable, if the fact be true that Agnes did not attract the king's favor, till three years later; yet Francis the First, who lived within fifty years afterwards, believed the tradition, and wrote a quatrain below her portrait, in her praise³³.

But it is acknowledged, that the fate of the French monarchy seemed now to be decided; and that the future fortune of France, perhaps of the world, was about to change, if, amid this dreary scene, "Providence had not suddenly raised up one of those beings astonishing by their genius, and wonderful in their destiny, who at various periods are called forth to be the instrument of those unexpected revolutions, which confound the pride of human conquerors, mock all the calculations of human wisdom; and lead the minds of kings and people to the recollection of the only throne that is never shaken, the only power that never ceases³⁴."

³² So Brantome, in his *Dames Gallantes*, relates the story.

³³ The royal verse is,

Gentille Agnes! plus d'honneur tu merite,
La cause estant de France recouvrer:
Que ce que peut dedans un cloistre ouvrer
Clause nonain, ou bien devot hermite.

Charm. 218. I can neither support nor impugn the story. That Francis should believe it, looks like a family tradition on the subject. It is not very easy to fix, with chronological accuracy, the time when a lady interests a king's partiality. Such incidents are not creditable enough to be exposed to an immediate publicity.

³⁴ With this sentiment, Mr. de Charmettes closes his introduction to his history of this celebrated woman. His work is particularly valuable, not only for its general

style of composition and ability, but still more so for the original documents that it contains, and from which he draws his leading facts. These documents are the depositions of the witnesses on the process against her, and her own answers to the questions of her judges; and the evidence given on three informations and four inquests of revision. The first information was in 1449, when seven witnesses were examined. The second with five witnesses, and the third with 17, were in 1452. The inquests were taken, in 1445, at Toul, where 34 witnesses deposed; at Orleans, in 1455, on the oaths of 41 evidences; and at Paris and Rouen, in the same year, when 39 other persons were sworn. These witnesses were her parents, relations, friends, and neighbours, and most of those of the highest as well as lower ranks, who had any transactions

or acquaintance with her. The whole number of deposing witnesses were 144. Charmettes, 1. p. 236.

On no historical character that has appeared, has such an abundance of authentic and satisfactory evidence been preserved, as now accompanies her memory. The first examinations were taken by her enemies; the latter by her friends. The following summary of her history is composed from the actual documents printed or referred to by M. de Charmettes, quoting the pages in which they are noticed or transcribed in his work.

There has been no authentic history of this extraordinary woman published before; every other account is full of untruths. Perhaps M. Charmettes leans a little too much to the marvellous possibilities of his subject; but his real documents are so copious, that the reader can always judge for himself. I am indebted for my possession of the work, to a valuable friend, who may rank its heroine among the greatest of those well selected 'Curiosities of Literature,' which do so much credit to his love of research, intelligence and taste.

CHAP.
IV.

HISTORY

OF

ENGLAND.

CHAP. V.

THE RISE OF JOAN OF ARC.

BOOK
I.

1429.

THE maid of Orleans was the unexpected person, who, when all other means were failing, and despair was debilitating the opposing French mind, suddenly rescued France from its approaching subjection to the English crown. The accomplishment of such an event, by one of the poorest and meanest of the people, of the feeblest sex, and of an age so youthful (for she was but nineteen when taken prisoner,) has enveloped her appearance with a cloud of wonder, that has prevented its natural causes from being distinctly contemplated. It is yet a doubt, with many, whether she was not a supernatural agent; and therefore it becomes a reasonable application of our curiosity, to trace the circumstances which combined to produce a moral phenomenon so extraordinary, and results so momentous.

Her birth.

She was born, about ten years before Henry V. died, at Domremy, a small hamlet attached to the village of Greux, which contained the principal church¹; and situated between Neufchateau and Vaucouleurs in Champagne. The district abounded in woods, rivers and pasturage; and being near the borders of Burgundy,

was

¹ Her own answer. Charm. v. 3, p. 269. pp. 237, 262, views of the house and chamber De Charmettes has inserted in his book, v. 1, in which she was born.

was frequently disturbed by the raging warfare ; a circumstance which accounts for the minds of its inhabitants, though chiefly shepherds, laborers, and fishermen, being more agitated than remoter parts of the country, with the patriotic question, whether Charles or Henry should be the sovereign of France.

Her parents, Jacques d'Arc and Isabel², lived for some time at Domremy. They were little farmers but poor; subsisting by the cultivation of a small portion of land, and the produce of a few cattle. Their neighbours deposed them to be pious, simple, honest, and hospitable persons, and much respected. They had three sons and two daughters, of whom one was the celebrated Joan of Arc³.

Their habitation was a small cottage, which had been the property of her mother⁴. Her birth was in 1411 or 1412, and she was baptized at the church of Domremy, by the curé of her hamlet⁵.

Her education was homely. She could never either read or write. In her day of celebrity, she traced a cross at the beginning of the letters she dictated⁶. She learnt from her mother to repeat the Lord's Prayer, the Creed and the Ave Maria ; and also what she knew of religion⁷. She confessed herself to her parochial minister, and learnt to sew and spin with great dexterity⁸.

Her education.

When the character of her youth was afterwards strictly inquired into, numerous witnesses described it to have been simple, chaste, modest, prudent, mild, temperate, and industrious. She performed

² Ib. Char. v. 1.

³ Various Depos. 241—3.

⁴ Dep. Conrad. ib. 244.

⁵ Jean's. Ans. v. 3, 269, 270. The date of her birth cannot be exactly stated; she said on 21 February 1431; that she thought she was then almost 19, p. 271. This would place her birth in 1412. On the next day she stated, that she first heard the supernatural voice at the age of 13, or thereabouts, p. 287, and 310. A few days afterwards, in February 1431, she said that they had guided her

for seven years, 327. A comparison of these expressions gives 1411 or 1412 as the year of her birth, but does not decide which. The old style began the year in March, but I have put the figures according to our custom of commencing it in January.

⁶ Charm. v. 1, p. 249.

⁷ So she told her interrogating bishop. 'I have learnt nothing but from her as to my belief.' Ans. v. 3, p. 271.

⁸ Ib. 286, 288. 'I feared no woman of Rouen in sewing and spinning.' 285.

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I.

1429.

formed her religious duties; was charitable as far as her means extended, and assisted the sick poor. Her manners were pleasing, her conversation inoffensive. She was dutiful to her parents, never used oaths; and preferred the conversation of the most reputable of her sex⁹.

Her habits.

Her leisure hours were stated by her neighbours, not to have been wasted in the public street. She was frequently seen kneeling in a corner of the church, in humble but fervent prayer. She was so bashful as to be disconcerted if suddenly addressed; and so kind-hearted, that she not only gave away whatever she had to the distressed, but frequently lodged the poor travellers in her own bed, while she slept on the hearth. One peasant, who had been ill from his infancy, spoke strongly to the good natured and affectionate attentions which he had received from her in his protracted malady¹⁰.

At the age of thirteen, it was proved, that she showed no taste for either dancing or singing, with which French villagers are usually delighted. While her neighbours thus amused themselves, she often withdrew, though censured by them, to the church. She loved to speak of the Deity and the Virgin, for whom she cherished a tender regard, and on whom she was continually meditating. Her reputation was unblemished; no fault was recollected of her, but that some thought her too devout. The curé of her parish, had said before her death, that there was no one like her under his superintendence. Other witnesses stated, that a better girl did not exist either at Greux or Domremy; and the commissary, sent by the English to her native place, to inquire into her early conduct, declared that he could hear of nothing but what he should desire to find in his own sister¹¹.

Her piety.

Her religious habits were detailed by many testimonies. She frequented the church not only to hear mass, but at vespers and complines.

⁹ Charm. v. 1, p. 251—3.

¹⁰ Depositions of various persons collected by Charm. Ib. 253, 254.

¹¹ Var. Dep. Ib. 255, 6.

complines. When the church of her own hamlet was burnt, she went every festival to attend mass at Greux. She confessed often, took the sacrament at Easter; and was sometimes found alone in the church, bending before the cross, her hands joined, and her eyes fixed in a tender and respectful contemplation of the image of our Saviour, or of his earthly mother¹².

These feelings accompanied her in her rustic employments and recreations. She often sat apart from her companions, and was sometimes overheard uttering the simple prayers of a child. If at the sound of the bell for worship, she could not leave her sheep to attend it, she fell on her knees in the meadows, and breathed her devotions in the midst of her flock. She was so anxious to be exact in this duty, that the beadle of her hamlet mentioned her displeasure at his sometimes omitting to ring the bell for complines; and her promise to him of a little present, if he would be more punctual in future¹³. These circumstances account for her patriotic enthusiasm combining itself with religious impressions.

Near Domremy was a little chapel consecrated to the Virgin, called the hermitage of Saint Mary. The young girls and boys of the village went every year to perform some ceremony at it, Joan walked to it every Saturday afternoon, usually with her sister, and occasionally with others. Her custom was, to place a lighted candle before the Virgin, and to pray to her fervently. Sometimes in the course of the week, she would suddenly quit her labors in the fields, and visit this favorite place, while her parents thought her at her rustic work¹⁴. As affectionate piety is the sublimest emotion of the soul to the sublimest of all beings, it tends to produce in the individual, the highest character of grandeur, and the deepest sensibility, of which he is susceptible. History has frequently displayed its power of forming a heroism of mind so superior to the possessor's natural condition, as to resemble inspi-
ration.

¹² Dep. ib. 257, 8.¹³ Dep. ib. 259—260.¹⁴ Dep. ib. 259—261.

ration. To its elevating effects on Joan, may be ascribed the largest portion of her success.

All this appears to have been done naturally and unaffectedly, from her earliest youth, and with no particular purpose floating in her mind. In other respects she was a common, active, industrious peasant girl. She went with her father and brothers to their work; pulled up the weeds, broke the clods of earth in the fields, assisted to make hay, watched her father's sheep, led his cattle and horses to their pasturage; and at home spun the hemp and wool, and discharged the ordinary duties of the family¹⁵. The gentleness of her disposition is emphatically expressed by the circumstance, that as she tended her flock in the meadows, the birds would come at her call, and eat bread from her hands¹⁶. She sometimes went into the field to sport or walk with other girls of her own age¹⁷.

Her fairy
tree.

It is desirable, in such a person, to trace, if possible, all her superstitions, that we may be better able to estimate her real character. About half a league from Domremy was an ancient wood of oaks, which was visible from her cottage. Below this forest, on the high road to Neufchateau, stood a majestic beech tree of some antiquity. It seems to have been an object of traditional veneration, for it was called the Beauty of May, the Tree of the Ladies, and the Fairy Tree. Near it bubbled a flowing spring, whose waters were drank by those who had been debilitated by a fever, and who, when able to walk, used to take their exercise under its favorite shade. It was the general opinion of the country, that formerly

¹⁵ Dep. ib. 261, 262. She thus described her life at that time, in her answers to her judge. "When I was in my father's house, I was employed in the family affairs, 286. As I grew up, and reached the age of discretion, I did not usually watch the cattle, but I assisted to conduct them to the meadows, and to castles near, for fear of the soldiers;

but I do not recollect whether I took care of the sheep or not in my childhood." V. 3, p. 286, 313.

¹⁶ So the bourgeois of Paris mentions, from the relations of her friends, in his journal; but, with a Burgundian feeling, adds his doubt of the fact.

¹⁷ Her Answers, p. 310.

formerly fairies visited both the tree and the spring ; and moved round the revered beech, with songs and mysterious dances¹⁸. A knight was traditionally recorded to have been seen under its boughs, conversing with one of these beings. The villagers believed that it was on account of their sins, that the fairies had ceased to be visible. Ever since, the priests, in their Whitsuntide perambulation, had been accustomed to stop under this mystic foliage, chaunt some prayers, and read the gospel in of St. John ; but one good housewife declared to Joan, that she had seen fairies in that place. The tree was so interesting, from its figure and extensive shade, that it was often visited by the gentry of the place, whose servants, in the spring, occasionally brought baskets of bread and wine, with which they amused themselves under it, with the village children, in a rural feast.

In the month of May, all the youths of the district usually assembled together, made the figure of a man of herbs and leaves, and sang and danced with it under this tree ; here they ate the cakes which their mothers had provided for the occasion ; and then singing with the natural joy of the young heart, strolled to the fountain, drank its waters, and sported around it ; they gathered the flowers that adorned the grass, twined them into crowns and garlands, and hung them on the branches of the tree. As the shades of night came on, they took them down, and carried them in festive triumph to their humble habitations. These things operated to excite early the fancy, and to give it a taste for the supernatural.

Joan of Arc, in her childhood, accompanied the village groupe in those harmless festivities. Seated under the tree, she also made her floral crowns and garlands to suspend upon it, or to place them on her favorite image of the Virgin. She sang and danced there with the rest ; but was remembered to have sung oftener than she danced. It was the report of her village, that on digging near this fairy spot, a root might be found which would bring riches to its

¹⁸ Charm. from Depos. v. 1, p. 284, 5.

BOOK

I.

1429.

Politics of
her village.

its possessor. But Joan's mind was so free from the stain of the love of money, that she did not believe the tale¹⁹.

As she grew up she became more occupied in the household work at home; and only went into the fields with the cattle. She passed her evenings sometimes with her spinning wheel, at her young neighbours; and one girl, who had often played with her, spoke of her good nature with affectionate recollection²⁰.

As all France was then divided into the two parties; Burgundians favoring the English claims; and Armagnacs, who supported Charles the Seventh, and the independence of the nation; the districts, where our heroine lived, partook of the distraction. Her own hamlet, with the exception of one individual, was for Charles. The next village of Marcey, between Domremy and Vaucouleurs, for the Burgundian faction. This diversity of sentiment engaged the inhabitants of each in perpetual altercation; and these discussions, in which their children participated²¹, added to Joan's religious fervor, an enthusiastic attachment to her sovereign, and to the liberties of her country, which, without this exciting competition, might not have occurred.

This

¹⁹ Various Dep. ib. 266—273. Vol. 3, p. 168. They who wish to trace the natural causes of the phenomenon of Joan's enterprise, will desire to read her own account of this tree, which probably had greater effect on her young associations, than she was aware of. Being asked what a certain wonderful tree near her village was, she answered, "There is, near Domremy, a tree called the Ladies Tree, and which others name the Fairy Tree; it is near a spring. I have heard say, that people ill with a fever drink its water, and go there to recover their health. I have witnessed this myself. I have been told that sick persons walked there when they could. I went sometimes to make nosegays and garlands under it. I have often heard old people, but not of my family, say that fairies frequented the place; my godmother said she had seen them, but I do not know that this was true. I never saw any there that I know

of; and I do not know whether I have seen them any where else or not. From the time I knew that I ought to go to the king, I took as little share as I could in those diversions. I do not think I danced there after I reached the years of discretion." She added, "There is a wood near it, called the Bois Chesnu, which is seen from my father's house; I neither knew nor have heard that fairies frequented that. My brother has been told, that it was said in my country, that I had 'pris mon fait,' under the fairy tree, but this is not true; it is quite the contrary." Ch. v. 3, p. 314, 315.

²⁰ Dep. Ch. v. 1, p. 274—277.

²¹ Her own Account, v. 3, p. 310—312.

She was asked if, in her childhood, she had not a great design to injure the Burgundians. She answered, 'I had a great interest and desire that my king should have his kingdom.' V. 3, p. 313.

This political dissention was not confined to words. The youths of Domremy, after their days labor, frequently went and challenged those of Marcey ; and Joan avowed, that she had often seen them return from these battles, wounded and bleeding. She did not remember, that she had ever been one of the combatants²². But she showed the warmth of her party feelings, by confessing, that she had wished that the only resident at Domremy, who was a Burgundian in his heart, might lose his head if it should please God²³. Yet even towards him, she seems not to have conducted herself with any personal bitterness ; for she had stood with him as a godmother to an infant that was baptized, and he spoke of her with esteem and interest, long after she was dead²⁴. Thus the predominant feelings in the soul of Joan d'Arc, from her infancy to her advanced youth, were those which arise from an impassioned combination of religion and patriotism, with a romantic and excited imagination. That Charles was a young man about her own age, naturally added a fondness of loyalty, that blended the emotions of her heart with the determination of her reason and the visions of her fancy. The incidents of the time, and of her own life and situation, tended to make her what she became ; although these would have agitated her in vain, unless a genius capable of responding to their call, had animated her visible frame.

We now approach the period when her enthusiasm became decidedly tinged with a wild superstition, that resembled delirium in its mildest and earliest shape ; and the time of its occurrence was remarkable. Henry V. had died in August 1422, and Charles VI. in the following October ; and as their deaths produced immediate discussions, whether France should have a French king in the dauphin,

²² Her Answer. V. 3, p. 312.

²³ Her Answer. V. 3, p. 310.

²⁴ Dep. de Conraddin. V. 1, p. 281. Her aversion to, or dread of the Burgundians, was such, that on one time, to avoid them, she said

she went from her father's house to a female friend at Neufchateau, and stayed there 15 days. V. 3, p. 285. Other witnesses made these only five days.

BOOK

I.

1429.

Her peculiar
imagination.

dauphin, the son of her deceased sovereign, or an English one in Henry VI. then a babe but nine months old, the energies of French sensibility were at no epoch more likely to be excited, than at this conjuncture. At no time could the imagination of the friends of Charles VII. and of the independence of their country, be in a state of greater susceptibility than at this crisis.

It was in the following May, according to Joan's own account, that those peculiar impressions began, which made her, at last, to occupy such an important space in the rolls of European history. We can know these only from her own descriptions, as they were internal sensations or suppositions, perceivable by none but herself. She delivered the account to her hostile judges, in answer to their questions, upon her trial. Her narration was consistent with all her previous assertions; and there seems no reason to doubt that she described, as she had uniformly acted upon them, with the full sincerity of her own undoubting belief. There was nothing about her brief and brilliant day of public exertion, which looked like wilful imposture in herself; we must therefore either suppose that she was practised upon by others; or that her young and enthusiastic imagination, and the organs on which it depends, had been affected by emotions, which produced those continuing hallucinations, that being indulged with fond delight, became at last a minor degree of permanent, though partial derangement. In this state, the sensations on which she acted seemed to her to represent visible, or audible realities. This is no more than what happens to all of us in dreams, and to some who are awake, when afflicted with temporary disease. The peculiarity in the Maid of Orleans was, that the illusive fancies impressed her during the day, when all her faculties were in wakeful action; and, like a protracted delirium, never left her till she died, though the general health of her constitution, and vigor of youth, prevented the effects from increasing. Perhaps, if she had survived much longer, the mental malady would have become more pervading and apparent. But dying

dying before this effect took place, she left it, unintentionally, a question with many, whether she was not inspired by some superhuman influence; celestial, in the opinion of her friends; but most clearly diabolical, in the conviction of the duke of Bedford and his gallant army, of indignant because defeated England, and of vindictive Burgundy.

That skilful artifice may make terrific impressions on the human mind, the antient Eleusinian mysteries, many contrivances of former priestcraft, the tricks of Rosicrucian adepts and German illuminati, and our popular phantasmagorias, sufficiently evince. But all these require appropriate theatres, co-operating agents, adapted seasons, selected times, and peculiar localities. In the case of Joan, none of these assistances occurred; and if we could allow their probability in her first impressions, the supposition would fail us when she moved into the court, the city, the camp, and hostile prisons, amid all which, her mysterious visitations attended her. The belief of Socrates, that he was frequently directed by a monitory demon²⁵, comes nearest to the impressions by which this maiden was influenced. The difference between the Athenian sage and the French peasant girl was, that he only pretended to hear, but she declared she also saw, though she most frequently heard, her supernatural advisers. We will give a concise detail of the mental phenomena that affected her, from her own simple descriptions.

“ At the age of thirteen, I had a voice of God, to assist me to govern

Her account
of her im-
pressions.

²⁵ See Xenophon's Memorabilia. The late Dr. Brown, in the preface to his *Philemon*, or *Progress of Virtue*, a noble attempt at a moral, narrative poem, has some remarks which strike me as new, and which may assist us in better understanding Joan's impressions. They occur in his considerations of the propriety of employing in poetry, supernatural machinery. ‘ Poetry is addressed to the imagination and passions; and these, in their most exalted exertions, raise us above this terrestrial scene, and carry us into the world

of spirits. Something preternatural seems to mingle with all our more elevated conceptions; and the mind delights to range in a sphere magnificent, unexplored and vast. To preternatural agency, the mind, when under the influence of strong feelings, spontaneously recurs; and the visible world seems to be connected with the celestial, by a strong, though secret chain.’ p. 14. These observations seem to be very applicable to the Maid of Orleans.

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I.

1429.

govern myself. It came at noon, in summer, in my father's garden. I had not fasted the day before. I heard it on my right towards the church. I was greatly frightened. I rarely hear it without seeing a great brilliancy on the side it comes from. I thought it came from heaven. When I had heard it three times, I knew that it was the voice of an angel. It has always kindly guarded me, and I understand very well what it announces. Though I were in a wood, I still heard it; and usually at noon. When I came into France I often heard it²⁶."

Being asked what it told her for the benefit of her soul, she added, "it recommended me to behave well, and to frequent the church; and told me that it was necessary that I should come into France²⁷."

She mentioned, that the voice, two or three times a week, ordered her to depart and go into France. At first she refused to tell what figure accompanied the voice²⁸. This question was put to her at various intervals; she declined answering it, because she was afraid of displeasing the voices²⁹; but having talked of their appearing, on her fourth interrogation, she at last disclosed the long withheld secret.

"The voices were those of St. Catherine and St. Margaret. Their forms were crowned with beautiful diadems, very rich and very precious. I knew them because they named themselves to me, when they saluted me. It is now seven years since they began to guide me³⁰." She added, that it was St. Michael accompanied by some angels, who first visited her. "I saw them with my bodily eyes, as I see you. When they left me I wept, and wished they had taken me with them³¹."

Some

²⁶ Her answers to the interrogatories of her judges, on 21 Feb. 1430. Des Charm. v. 3, p. 287. He has printed the whole of her examinations. By France she meant the part called l'isle de France; and as she lived in the districts called Champagne, and near Burgundy, she calls her going from them to the

contiguous provinces which Charles still held, going into France.

²⁷ V. 3, p. 288.

²⁸ Ib.

²⁹ Ib. p. 305, 307, 308.

³⁰ Inter. 27 Feb. 1430-1, p. 326, 327.

³¹ Ib. p. 328, 9.

Some days afterwards, a few more particulars were drawn from her. She said she saw faces very richly crowned, but neither arms nor figured limbs, nor garments. They spoke in a sweet, mild and humble voice, but in fine language in French. *She had heard them near the fountain at the fairy tree*, but did not then understand what they said. She did not see St. Michael often. The female saints visited her most frequently³²; she saluted them with great respect as they approached and retired; and kissed the earth after they left her, on which they had reposed³³.

On other examinations, she mentioned that she had touched and embraced the female saints, as she knelt to them³⁴. That St. Michael had first come to her, and told her they would be with her, and that she was to act by their advice, as they were to guide and counsel her. That at first, she greatly doubted whether it was St. Michael, and saw him several times before she was certain of it; but he instructed her so much, that she became convinced of it. That he ordered her to be a good girl, and that God would assist her, and that she must go to the succor of the king of France³⁵. Being again pressed about his figure and dress, she said he was in the form of a true gentleman³⁶; and he had wings³⁷. She mentions several times her terror at his first appearance³⁸; but that his good advice, comfortings and good doctrine, fixed her belief in him³⁹; and then she felt a great joy at his presence⁴⁰.

These impressions were not confined to the locality of her native village. In the course of her examinations, she declared that she had

³² Inter. 1 March, 1430-1, p. 351—5. In her fifth examination, being asked if they had natural heads, she exclaimed, with some warmth, 'I have seen them with my own eyes, and I believe that they were those beings, as firmly as I believe that God exists.' 367.

²³ Inter. 10 March, p. 403. She was asked if Saint Margaret spoke English. Her answer was, 'How should she speak English, she was not on their side.' p. 353.

³⁴ V. 3, p. 453. Her inability and aversion to describe the forms and garments of these apparitions; her intimations that they had no limbs, and the inconsistencies of their reposing on the earth, and of her embracing them, very much resemble the natural confusion and indistinctness of our dreams, and of some of the morbid perceptions of the mind.

³⁵ P. 437, 488.

³⁷ P. 366.

³⁹ P. 440.

³⁶ P. 439.

³⁸ P. 437, 438.

⁴⁰ P. 359.

BOOK

I.

1429.

had heard the voices every day⁴¹, even in the prison, in which they waked her⁴²; that they never contradicted themselves⁴³; that the light came with them into her prison⁴⁴; that she had heard them in the hall of her examination; that she had asked their advice how to answer the inquisitorial questions, and they bade her answer boldly⁴⁵; a brightness always accompanied them⁴⁶. After the commencement of her martial enterprizes, she declared the saints frequently appeared to her, even in her dungeon⁴⁷, but that she had not seen St. Michael since she left Crotoy⁴⁸. As no contrivances of others, could at all these times have acted upon her senses, her imaginations must have been either a limited derangement or wilful imposture; but the rectitude, heroism, piety and nobleness of mind and feeling, which all her conduct displayed, have never been found united with fraud and falsehood. Her illusions may therefore be considered as an extraordinary instance of high-souled and generous delirium, co-existing with a glowing heart and vigorous understanding.

In considering the possible origin of these singular hallucinations, some other circumstances may be adverted to. It was not till after the English had entered the provinces of Charles, which she called France, that the voices came⁴⁹. She acknowledged that there were traditions in her country, that from the wood which was visible from her father's house, a maiden was to come who would do wonderful things; but that she did not believe them⁵⁰. Another woman at that period pretended to be visited by a visionary lady, dressed in cloth of gold, whom Joan denounced as a mad woman, who spoke falsehoods⁵¹. She confessed that her mother frequently told her, that her father had dreamt that she would go away from him with some of the gens d'armes; that they watched her

⁴¹ 'There is no day in which I do not hear the voice, and I have great need of it. p. 293.

⁴² P. 302.

⁴³ P. 304.

⁴⁴ P. 307.

⁴⁵ P. 324, 5, 7.

⁴⁶ P. 333.

⁴⁷ P. 351.

⁴⁸ P. 358. She once said, that the figures

which appeared to her were very small; as little as the smallest things, v. 4, p. 220; another indication that they were diseased impressions on her mind.

⁴⁹ P. 312.

⁵⁰ P. 315.

⁵¹ P. 381.

her closely, and kept her in great subjection; and that her father declared to her brothers, that if he thought his dream was to be fulfilled, he should wish them to drown her; and that if they hesitated, he would do it⁵². It is also mentioned by a contemporary, and it accounts for her being so good a horsewoman as she suddenly appeared, that she had shown much courage in riding horses to water, while in her village condition⁵³. Her uncle deposed, that she had mentioned to him, that France had been destroyed by a wife, and was to be re-established by a virgin⁵⁴. It is still more important to add what is mentioned by a contemporary, that she amused herself with her companions, in running and in fighting with a kind of lance. She even made assaults on trees, as if they had been combatants. At another time she would mount the horse she was leading to his pasture, and manage it like the best squires. Armed with long sticks, she would give the blows of a spear so forcibly, that those who saw, could not but admire her, and took a pleasure to see her at these exercises⁵⁵. From some of these facts it may be inferred, that a military spirit began early to arise in her mind, amid her more feminine qualities, and gave an amazonian direction to her patriotic enthusiasm; while her morbid fancy borrowed its shapes and sounds from the feelings of her simple, but honest and fervent piety. With this imperfect attempt to account for this intellectual phenomenon, we must leave the curious subject to the reader's own contemplation and judgment. The results are certain, though the agencies on the

⁵² P. 405.

⁵³ Monst. 6, p. 254. He adds, that she had been for some time hostler and chambermaid at an inn. This seems to have arisen from her assisting the mistress of the house or inn, where she and her family took refuge for a short time, at Neufchateau, when a Burgundian party invaded their hamlet. 1 Charm. 306. Both Pasquier and Monstrellet appear to have mistaken this short residence for a permanent occupation. Ib. 306—309.

⁵⁴ Dep. de D'Laxart. 1 Charm. 320.

⁵⁵ It is Phillippe de Bergami who mentions this in his book de *Claris Mulieribus*, c. 157; and he says he had it from a seigneur, whom he names and calls a faithful witness, and who, he says, had seen and learnt all these things when at the court. Mr. De Charmettes thinks these circumstances exaggerated, but he is rather too much inclined to believe in the Maid's supernatural inspirations. Bergami's facts account for the sudden ability she displayed in the use of armor and weapons.

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I.

1429.

the maiden's mind be obscure; and these results we shall now proceed to narrate. The maiden was gradually forming for her great destination, in her obscure village, unknown to all the world, which she was soon to astonish, like the jewel, that secretly and silently grows in the dark stony earth. The obscurity, the loneliness, and the neglect, are perhaps essential to the production of that radiance which we admire, and which no art can fabricate. Joan was a creature of providential nature, whom no education or contrivance could have shaped or actuated. These may dress and move the puppet of a Perkin Warbeck, but not a Maid of Orleans.

HISTORY

OF

ENGLAND.

CHAP. VI.

THE MAIDEN'S INTRODUCTION TO CHARLES VII.

THAT the voices told her she must raise the siege of Orleans, and must apply to Baudricourt, the lord of the village of Vaucouleurs, who would appoint persons to accompany her, was become her fixed belief¹. She concealed these visions from her priest and from her father, least her enterprize should be prevented². But she dropped hints of her object, occasionally, among her acquaintance³. To select the lord of her village, for her first patron, was quite natural to her situation, though she ascribed it to mysterious impulse.

She began to execute her secret intentions, by leaving her father's house without his knowledge, for her uncle's, at a neighbouring village, whom she interested to ask her parent's leave for her visiting him. She stayed there eight days, and told him she must go to Vaucouleurs, for she was appointed to crown the dauphin⁴. The uncle went to the seigneur Baudricourt, who, hearing

CHAP.
VI.She visits the
Lord of her
village.¹ Interrog. Vol. 3, p. 288.² P. 401, 402.³ Thus one deposed, that she had mentioned several times, that she must go into France; another, that she had said, 'If you were not a Burgundian, I could tell you something;' a third swore, that she had declared that there

was a girl between Campey and Vaucouleurs, who within a year would cause the king to be crowned; and a fourth, that she had asserted to him, that she would deliver France and the blood royal. 1 Charm. 303, 4.

⁴ Her own Answers. V. 3, p. 289, and her uncle's deposition. V. 1, p. 320.

BOOK

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hearing his account, bade him whip her well, and send her back to her father⁵. Joan, stung by this contempt, put on her uncle's clothes, and declared she would go to the wars alone. Seeing her so resolute, he promised to take her to Baudricourt; and in May 1428, introduced her to him in her shabby red gown⁶. She told him, that her lord had determined to make the dauphin king, and that she was to crown him. He inquired, who was her lord. "The king of heaven," was her answer. He refused to listen to her⁷. Three times she solicited him in vain.

Vexed at her disappointment, she passed her time at Vaucouleurs in religious exercises; in spinning, and in talking on her divine mission with her hostess, and with others who came there. She called to their minds the old prophecy, that France was to be delivered by a virgin from the borders of Lorraine. They remembered it, and began to think, from her perseverance and enthusiasm, that she might be the person⁸.

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This popular prediction, which may have suggested, assisted her pretensions. The impression made on others in that fanciful day, at last extended to Baudricourt himself. He came to see her, with the parochial minister, but left her without any further notice; and she returned to her uncle's. She remained there till the Lent of the next year, when she persuaded him to take her again to Vaucouleurs⁹.

Finding herself disregarded by the feudal lord, she resolved to go on foot to the king, and went a short way; but recollecting, as she told her two rustic companions, that it was not respectable to go away so, she returned to Vaucouleurs.

As she got back, she found a gentleman of the district, Jean de Metz, there, who asked her what she was doing. She told him, that she must see the king before Lent was over; and that no one but

⁵ Dep. Laxart. V. 1, p. 321.

⁶ Dep. of several. V. 1, p. 321.

⁷ Dep. of Bertrand, a gentleman who was present at the interview. 1 Charm. 324.

⁸ Dep. of Henry and his wife, with whom she lodged; and of Albert, a knight, who saw her there. 1 Charm. 327.

⁹ Charm. 1, p. 330.

but herself could assist him. There was something about her, which struck his imagination. He took her hand, and promised that he would conduct her; and inquired when she would go. "Rather to-day than to-morrow," was her answer. But she desired a male dress, and he sent a servant for some apparel of his own¹⁰.

His accrediting her, decided more; and it became a general conviction that she was divinely inspired. Her name began to spread. The duke Charles of Lorraine, weakened by an incurable illness, desired to see and consult her. De Metz escorted her to him; but she told him, she knew nothing about disease¹¹. This interview must have increased her importance. After quitting him, she at length obtained a recommendation from Baudricourt to the king. He gave her a sword, and paid for her horse; and the people of the place supplied what else she wanted¹².

Thus far Joan had succeeded, not beyond her own expectations, but much beyond the commencing probabilities of her project. But having once fixed the popular attention, and excited a popular interest in her native province, the powerful waves of public feeling both sustained and carried her to the completion of her wishes. No epidemic spreads more rapidly, or acts more potently, than popular sensibility. Like Virgil's fame, it strengthens in fervor, force and means, as it diffuses. The wisest become infected, and the most adverse subdued. The fever may be temporary, but while it lasts, it is irresistible.

Her escort to the king consisted of seven persons. The gentleman John de Metz, another man of noble birth, Bertrand de Poulengy, who had been with Baudricourt at her first visit; their valets; her third brother Peter, a king's messenger, and an archer;

Her journey
to the King.

¹⁰ This gentleman deposed these facts.
¹ Charm. 331, 2.

¹¹ Her own Account. V. 3, p. 289.

¹² See the depositions cited by Charm. 332, 342. From a MS. which M. de l'Averdy saw, it would seem that Baudricourt had sent to

the king on the subject, from whom he had an answer. Notices des Manusc. de la Bibl. de la Roi. V. 3, p. 303. This fact is confirmed by a king's messenger, being one of her escort.

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archer; an oath was exacted from these, that they would conduct her safely to the king¹³.

Her village friends crowded around her, as she set off. They reminded her, that the roads were infested by the enemies. "I fear not men at arms. I have God for my lord and guide; I am born for my enterprize," was her ardent reply¹⁴. At that moment, she thought the voices sounded in her ear, "Go fearlessly, and when you come before the king, he shall have a token to receive and accredit you¹⁵." Baudricourt dismissed her with this brief address: "Go!—and let come what may¹⁶."

Her companions journeyed with her, with varying feelings. The two gentlemen confessed afterwards, that they had experienced many doubts and fears; and some of the rest declared, that they took her for a mad woman, or a sorceress, and meant to put her in some prison on the way¹⁷. As they travelled, the energies of her character prevailed over their prudence; and they felt an increasing disposition to do whatever was most agreeable to her. Her will became irresistible; and such was the respect which her unaffected virtues impressed, that the knight declared, he should not have dared to have made her an improper request; and the esquire deposed, that he had experienced no wish to do so, "on account of the great goodness which he saw in her¹⁸."

As the Burgundians and English were ranging the country, they travelled all the night of the first day, to St. Urban's, a village on the Marne, near Joinville, and rested the next evening at an abbey. They avoided the high roads and larger towns. In their way to Auxerre, besides passing over smaller rivers, they had to cross the Marne, the Aube, the Seine and the Yonne. She expressed a wish to

¹³ Depos. of the two gentlemen who lived to give their evidence about her. 1 Charm. 343, 4.; and see her own Answers. V. 3, p. 290.

¹⁴ As her host, Henry the cartwright, swore. P. 345.

¹⁵ Her own Account, on 10 March, 1431. Vol. 3, p. 397.

¹⁶ Her own Account. 3. p. 290.

¹⁷ Their Depos. 1 Ch. 347.

¹⁸ Dep. 1 Ch. 348.

to hear mass as often as she could; but from their dread of the hovering enemy, they only twice consented to it¹⁹.

Her confidence and courage never faltered. "Are you sure," they at times inquired, "of doing what you say." "Fear nothing," was her reply; "all this is commanded me." The deliverance of her country was the fixed object of her enthusiasm; and all her religious superstitions associated themselves with the resolution²⁰. They attempted to intimidate her, by a feigned alarm of an hostile attack. "Fly not," she exclaimed, as horsemen seemed advancing against them; "they will do us no injury²¹."

As to her demeanor during the journey, the two gentlemen deposed, that her first actions on waking were to say her prayers, and make the sign of the cross: that she evinced a great desire to attend the public service at church; that she never swore; that they did not observe the smallest thing in her, which they could blame; that she always appeared as good a girl as if she had been a saint; that from their impressions, they gave much belief to her words; that they could not but think she was sent from heaven; and that they felt themselves at last inflamed by the same love of God, which animated her²².

From Auxerre they got safely to Gien on the Loire, the first town under the power of Charles, which they had yet entered; she crossed the Loire and went towards Chinon. She had yet as great a distance to traverse, as she had passed. But as it was in the French dominions, she journeyed more securely. She rested at Fierbois, a village in Touraine, about sixteen miles from Chinon; and

She reaches
Chinon.

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Feb.

¹⁹ She says she heard mass at the principal church of Auxerre; and adds, 'I was then frequently visited by the voices.' V. 3, p. 290.

I have seen deranged persons, who have declared that they heard voices, and received information, which, from the other circumstances, they mentioned, and from my own knowledge, were clearly imaginary.

²⁰ Her other observations show the impressions which governed her mind. She declared

to them, 'It is already four or five years since my brothers in Paradise and my lord, have told me that I must go to war to recover the kingdom.' At another time her words were, 'Fear nothing, for when you shall have arrived at Chinon, the noble dauphin will receive you well.' Deposit. of the gentlemen, p. 354.

²¹ Dep. Hussan. 1, p. 351.

²² Dep. J. de Metz. and B. de Poulengy, p. 352.

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and sent a letter to the king, declaring that she had travelled 150 leagues to come to help him, and had good things for him; and asking permission to enter the city where he was²³.

At noon, of the eleventh day of her travels, at the end of February, she concluded her wintry journey by arriving at Chinon; and lodged herself at an inn kept by a female, near the castle. She was then about eighteen, of a middling size in her male attire; very strong, but well-made and well-proportioned; her neck and shape were deemed beautiful. Her black hair fell round her neck, but not lower than her shoulders. Her countenance was pleasing. She had a sweet voice and an insinuating expression. She rode, and carried a lance, with as much address and grace as the best knight. She expressed herself with great discretion and ease²⁴.

It was sworn, that before Joan had been heard of, a woman, one Marie d'Avignon, had presented herself to the king, pretending a prophetic commission to him; and announcing, that a maiden would come after her, and deliver France²⁵. This fact, which occasioned her to be asked before the king, if there was in her country a wood called Bois Chesnu, the place from which this deliverer was to come, confirms what we have already mentioned, that notions of this sort had pre-existed in the country; and may have given to Joan unconsciously to herself, that fixed and personal direction of her patriotic emotions, which realized the anticipation. Her reply at the court was, That she attached no faith to the account. She did not therefore claim the benefit of her predecessor's allusions²⁶, however they may have contributed to her own hallucinations.

The

²³ Her Account. v. 3, p. 334. According to her own account, she was then about 18. Daulon, the king's maitre d'hotel, deposed, that he thought her about 16. Depos. v. 1. p. 107.

²⁴ Various Depos. v. 1. p. 367—9. 2d part.

²⁵ Barbin, the king's advocate, stated this, and that he had it from Maitre John Erault, a professor of theology. p. 364, 5.

Her Answer. v. 3, p. 315. Thibault, of the

king's household, deposed, that he had formerly seen a prediction in writing, that a girl would deliver France. One of her judges declared, that he had found a prophecy, ascribed to Merlin, that such a person would come from a bois chesnu in Lorraine. The count Dunois repeated it in four verses; and said that they were shown to the earl of Suffolk after his capture. Depos. of these persons. Vol. 1, p. 361—4.

The state of Charles and his portion of France, when Joan appeared, may be conceived from the description of the lady of his counsellor and receiver general. "In the districts obeying the king, the misfortunes and want of money were lamentable. The king himself had but four crowns in his house. Both he and his friends had no longer any hope, and were meditating flight. Every thing was desperate, and none expected any relief²⁷." Empirical remedies are seldom resorted to, but when rational aid fails; but despair rather welcomes the extravagant; and it was this state of things, which saved the Maid from being immediately rejected with scorn and disgrace.

When Joan arrived at Chinon, it was earnestly debated in the royal council, whether the king should attend to her or not. It was at last determined, that the prelates should interrogate her. To their first question she answered, That she must speak to their sovereign herself. But being pressed, by an order from him, to disclose the object of her mission, she declared, that she came from the king of heaven, to accomplish two things; to raise the siege of Orleans, and to conduct him to Rheims to be crowned²⁸.

The opinions of the council continued to be divided: some thought that no faith could be given to her; others, that the king should see her. Charles determined that she should be examined again, and he sent to her native village, to inquire into her life and morals²⁹. In the mean time, she was placed in a tower in the castle, and a youth of fifteen was appointed to attend her. She was here visited by females, and several men of high rank. She continued her devotional exercises³⁰.

The

²⁷ Dep. of the Dame de Boulogney. 1 p. 362. The antient Olivier de la Marche also mentions, that from this war the king found himself so governed, and under the hand of so many gens d'armes, strangers, and private persons, that there was no captain in France so inconsiderable, that they dared shut the king's door against him, whatever was his business. Mem. p. 21, 2.

²⁸ Dep. of S. Charles, president of account, and of other persons. 1. p. 270, 1.

²⁹ Dep. of Barbin and others. 372.

³⁰ The youth deposed, that he often saw her humbly kneeling, and addressing God in fervent prayer, and at times weeping as she prayed. Dep. L. de Contes. v. p. 373.

The further investigations discovering nothing in her manners or morals, that impeached her character, the king at last, though against the advice of some of his courtiers, ordered her to be admitted. The hour appointed was after dinner. Fifty torches³¹ blazed in the apartment, where above 300 knights were assembled. Many lords were present, superbly dressed, and more richly than the king, who stepped aside to see if she would not address some other person for him, at the moment of her introduction.

She presented herself, with much humility and simplicity, like a poor shepherdess; but with such presence of mind, that she distinguished the king in the middle of the crowd, advanced towards him, and respectfully saluted him³². She knelt down, and embracing his legs, exclaimed, "Gentle king! God grant you a good life." "I am not the king," said he; "there is the king," pointing to another. "By my God, gentle prince! but you are he, and no other. Most noble lord! I come and am sent by God, to bring aid to you and to your kingdom." She added, that she wished to go and combat the English. He asked her, who

³¹ Her own Account. 3. p. 333.

³² She said her voices made her to know him. Ans. 3, p. 292. As men have looked for the wonders of Joan's life, and not for the causes of their occurrence, it has been thought miraculous, that she should have known the king; but it must be recollected, that in his adversity he was very unceremoniously visited, and therefore his person was familiarly known to many inferior persons; that Joan, having for some years fixed her imagination upon him, must have eagerly caught and remembered every circumstance that she heard reported concerning him, and have made those inquiries about him, of all who talked of him, which affectionate women usually do of the object of their liking; that he was young, which alone would distinguish him from many; that his lords were more pompously and richly clothed than he was, (which was the very circumstance that Bonaparte chose to mark himself out more con-

spicuously from his court;) that she entered the apartment, expecting some deception; for a chronicle of the time (1 ch. 377) notices that as she entered, she desired those who conducted her, not to deceive her, but to show her the person she ought to speak to. As all her hopes rested on her not failing at this moment, all her recollection and power of discernment must have been strongly excited; and to see a person like what she had heard described, dressed differently from the rest, retiring from her, and yet most probably with some circumstance of habitual respect shown him, though not intentionally, which her quickness of eye immediately caught, may have fixed her judgment. We may also add, that as she was not introduced till the king had been advised, by some of his council, to receive and sanction her, they who wished to make use of her, may have taken care to give her such intimations as prevented her mistaking him.

who she was. She replied, "Gentle dauphin, my name is Joan the Maiden, and the king of heaven announces to you by me, that you will be consecrated and crowned in the city of Rheims. You will be the lieutenant of the king of heaven, who is the king of France³³." The king became affected; he drew her aside, and conversed with her a long time with visible satisfaction. In this colloquy she is stated to have revealed to him, a circumstance which astonished him, by her acquaintance with it; and produced his immediate declaration in her favor. He said, she had told him what was only known to heaven and himself³⁴. When he walked out in the neighbouring meadows, she went on horseback there; and ran a course of the lance with so much address and grace, that the duke d'Alençon, after long observing her, presented her with a fine steed³⁵.

She was examined again more strictly than before, by several prelates and others; but her answers continued to be, that she was sent by the king of heaven; and that celestial voices revealed to her habitually, whatever she had to do to execute his orders³⁶. She was then sent to Poitiers, to be interrogated by the parliament there; and that the king might be informed, whether he could lawfully accept her services. Her answers discovered a great combination of enthusiasm and shrewdness³⁷. A considerable part of

³³ These facts are taken from the depositions and authorities cited by Charm. V. i. p. 378, 9.

³⁴ It has been much canvassed what this was; Joan would never explain it, and it was uncertain till the MS. work of N. Sala was found in the royal library. He accounts for his knowledge of it thus: "About 1480, I was one of the household of Charles VIII. and served the Chevalier de Boisi, who, in his youth, had been such a favorite with Charles VII. as to be his bedfellow. Charles told him, that in his distress he had one morning prayed in his heart, without utterance, that if he was indeed descended from the noble house of France, and that the king-

dom justly belonged to him, that heaven would defend it for him; or at the worst, would enable him to escape death or imprisonment, and to find a refuge in Spain or Scotland." Joan reminded the king, of this prayer. Such an incident leads to a suspicion, that some one very near the king, and acquainted with his private thoughts, was now secretly assisting the Maid. The confessors of royalty have great means of befriending such projects as these.

³⁵ Dep. de duc d'Alen. V. i. 390.

³⁶ Ib. 392.

³⁷ The Friar Seguin's deposition states the circumstances. She was there two hours; every one had his turn, and she gave them all,

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of her leisure was, as before, passed in devotion. She was visited by many of all ranks. They went with the belief that her promises were fantastic dreams; but such was the impression she made on them, by the personal interview, that they left her, declaring, and some with tears, that she was a creature of God. She justified her assumption of a male dress, by the necessity of her using armor³⁸; and when criticised for calling Charles the dauphin only, she answered, "I shall not style him king till he has been crowned at Rheims, whither I shall conduct him³⁹."

The result of this inquiry was, that they found nothing in her but what suited a good christian, and a good catholic; that they thought her answers as prudent as if they had been inspired; and considering her manners, her simplicity, her pious life, her fair reputation, the imminent peril of Orleans, and the pressing necessities

all, answers which astonished them. To the question, What moved her to the undertaking, he says she answered, in a lofty manner, That watching one day her flock in the fields, a voice appeared to her, saying, that God greatly pitied France, and that she must visit it. She began to weep; and the voice then bid her go to Vaucouleurs, where she would find a captain, who should conduct her safely to the king. Another present, remarking to her, that if the Deity wished to deliver France, he did not need men at arms. She promptly answered, 'Men at arms fight; and God gives the victory.' The narrator of the interview, who spoke in Limousin French, asked her, what dialect the voice used, 'A better one than your's,' was her tart reply. 'Do you believe in God?' he rejoined, 'Better than you do.' Calling upon her for a miracle to confirm her mission, in which others joined, she exclaimed with dignity 'I have not come to Poitiers to work miracles, but conduct me to Orleans, and there I will show you for what I am sent.' The deposition of another stated, that she said, 'The miracle that is given to me to do, is to raise the siege of Orleans. Give me men at arms, in what number or as few as you please, and I will go there and do

it.' Dep. Garmell, 398, 9. She then declared, that the English would be driven from Orleans; that the king would be consecrated at Rheims; that Paris would be subjected to his authority; and that the Duke of Orleans would return from England. Ib. 399.

³⁸ Chroniq. ib. 400.

³⁹ Dep. Garmel. 401. Thibault states, that by order of the king's confessor, he took two professors of theology to her. As they questioned her again, why she came, and who sent her, she answered 'Hear me; I am neither A. nor B. I came from the king of heaven, to raise the siege of Orleans, and to convey the king to Rheims to be crowned; but I must first write to the English, and summon them. Have you paper and ink?' As they answered in the affirmative, she added, 'write then what I dictate; you, Suffolk, Glacidas and Pole! I summon you, on the part of the King of heaven, that you depart to England.' When they quoted scripture, to prove that she ought not to be believed, she replied, 'There are in my Lord's books, more things than in your's.' Dep. Thibault. Dep. Garmel. Dep de Bou-ligny, 402—403.

sities of the king and kingdom, that her services should be accepted; and that she should be sent to relieve Orleans⁴⁰. The king however still hesitated; and further inquiries⁴¹ and examinations ensued, at which his mother, the queen of Sicily, presided⁴².

Three weeks had now elapsed, and Joan complained of the loss of time. Charles at last assented to her enterprize, and the succors were prepared. A suit of armor to fit her body, was made for her. Her sword she chose herself. She pretended, that her voices announced to her, that there was one behind the altar of St. Catherine, marked with five fleurs de lis, which she was to use. She wrote to the church for it. An armorer found, or declared he found, it buried in the earth. It was rusty. The priest soon made it fit for use. There is an air of contrivance about these circumstances. The ecclesiastics provided a red velvet sheath for it, and the people of Tours one of cloth of gold. She ordered in preference one of strong leather⁴³.

He assents to
her enter-
prize.

That Joan's first impulses and projects were her own enthusiastic emotions, and self-flattering fancies, we have already suggested; but from the time she arrived at Chinon, other persons may have begun to use some artificial contrivances, to produce useful political results from her agency and popularity; as she did not come there the mere peasant girl, so she was not long in that town before she almost ceased to be such. The increasing disposition of the public to accredit and to trust her; the necessity of some new impulse to revive the decayed loyalty and disheartened nationality of the French nation; the possibility, that she might for a time be used advantageously for this purpose; the certainty that no harm could come from the trial; the absence of all other means of adequate exertion, and the despairing hopelessness of Charles

⁴⁰ See the Depositions to this effect, cited by Charm. 406, 7. The proces verbal of the decision has not been preserved.

⁴¹ The archbishop of Tours has left a MS. account of the questions to her, and

her answers. L. Du Fresnoy, V. 1, p. 34, Char. 1, p. 408.

⁴² Depos. of Duc d'Alençon, de Pasquerel and d'Aulon. 1 Ch. 412, 3.

⁴³ Char. 420, 1.

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Charles and his affairs, were sufficient reasons to incline his best statesmen, to try what public good could be extracted from her agency. The more they were convinced of the delusion of her mysterious visitations, and that she mistook enthusiasm for inspiration; the more desirous in that day of political artifice, when no minister or ambassador could act without it; they may have been, to have supplied by their own contrivances, whatever would be most likely to increase her popularity, and give a temporary effect to her asserted mission. Hence many tricks of imposture may have been now appended to her simple and honest pretensions, of which she was unconscious; and of which she may have been made both the instrument and the dupe; the transaction of the sword seems to have been of this description. Like Don Quixote, she converted all things into food for cherishing her pervading illusions; while others schemed and contrived to lead them to certain advantage.

Her standard.

She chose her own standard. On a white ground, strewn with fleurs de lis, was figured the Saviour of mankind, as seated on his tribunal in the clouds, and holding the world in his hands, while two angels knelt in adoration before him. The inscription was *Jhesus Maria*⁴⁴. Whenever she could, she carried this herself, declaring that though she loved her sword, she preferred the standard forty times to it⁴⁵; the reason she gave was "I do not mean to use this sword to kill any one⁴⁶." Before she left the king, she told him she should be wounded at Orleans, but she would not therefore desist⁴⁷.

The supplies being provided, were assembled at Blois. Joan there first put on her armor. Her firm enthusiasm began to electrify

⁴⁴ Her own description. V. 3, p. 337. p. 449, p. 373; and Pasquerel, depos. 1, p. 421. She said the voices directed it, V. 3, 449.

⁴⁵ Her own Answer.

⁴⁶ Dep. Seguin. 1, p. 422.

⁴⁷ The exciteability of the French at this time is strongly shown in the journal d'un bourgeois de Paris. A cordelier came there in April, 1429, and preached in the church

of St. Genevieve, nine days successively, from five in the morning to ten or eleven o'clock, from a high scaffold, to five or 6,000 auditors. In the middle of his sermon, above 100 fires were seen lighted, into which the men were throwing their gaming tables, cards, and what else he blamed. So the next day the women burnt their head dresses, horns, tails and ornaments of pomp. Charm. V. i. p. 427—9.

electrify the country; and small bodies of voluntary defenders, at different intervals, introduced themselves into Orleans⁴⁸; although the English had surrounded the place with several fortresses and bulwarks⁴⁹. It is important to notice this fact, as it proves that the effort of Joan to enter and relieve the city, though a hazardous attempt, was yet practicable without a miracle. Her intended effort was known at Orleans, which was reduced to the last extremity; and from the wonderful reports that had been spread about her, she was impatiently expected there⁵⁰.

Joan sent before her a written summons, addressed to the English commanders, demanding of them, in a high tone, to render to her the keys of all the cities they had taken; ordering the besiegers to go home; and declaring, that if they disobeyed they should be slain, or driven out of France⁵¹. The king gave her authority to command the army, and ordered that nothing should be done without her⁵². The marshals St. Severe and de Rayr headed the relieving forces; and, by the directions of Dunois, the celebrated La-Hire eagerly joined them⁵³. A chronicle of the time mentions their amount to have been 7,000 men⁵⁴. She had the *Veni Creator* sung, and ordered them to confess themselves, and to leave their women and baggage behind, and to trust in God; declaring that their victory would depend on the divine succor⁵⁵. While this reaction was preparing, the English, ignorant

Her summons to the English.

⁴⁸ Thus on 24 April, 40 men got in; on 26, 100 entered it; on 27, 60 more; and on 28th, Florent D'Illiers and the brother of La-Hire, with 400 soldiers. Chron. du Siege. 1 Charm. 437.

⁴⁹ See these detailed in Charm. 439—444. Villaret states them to have been six great bastiles or forts, placed against the principal avenues to Orleans, and communicated with sixty redoubts of a smaller size.

⁵⁰ So L'Huilier bourgeois d'Orleans deposed. 1 Charm. p. 447.

⁵¹ See it at length in Charm. V. i. p. 448, taken from the MS. in the royal library.

⁵² N. Sala, and 1 Charm. 433.

⁵³ Dep. Dunois, p. 434.

⁵⁴ Chron. 2 Charm. p. 3.

⁵⁵ Chron. ib. Dep. Sim. Beaucroix. Dep. Pasquerel, ib. 4—6. The two greatest fighting men in France at this period, were Poton de Saintrilles and La-Hire. Few knights of romance so repeatedly distinguished themselves. Next to them, Dunois the bâtard d'Orleans, and the marshal St. Severe, appeared foremost in the military career. The co-existence of these four truly chivalric warriors, with Joan of Arc, contributed greatly to the results, which her spirit, example and impulse mainly occasioned. La-Hire died at last in a good old age, worn out with heroic exertions. Monstrel. 8. p. 342.

BOOK. rant of what the next act in time's great drama was to be, were
 I. anticipating plunder, ransoms, and the grandest future successes.
 1429. But we often mistake darkness for serenity; and are tempted by
 the radiant and peaceful night, to expect a morning of brilliance
 and joy, when we wake only to storm, dreariness, or disease. The
 future frequently comes like a mysterious being, unlike all that has
 preceded, and as tremendous as impenetrable.

HISTORY

OF

ENGLAND.

CHAP. VII.

THE MAIDEN RAISES THE SIEGE OF ORLEANS.

WHEN they set out for Orleans, Joan desired them to cross the river at once, and to advance on the right bank of the Loire, on which the city stood. This was the advice of straight forward common sense and inexperienced courage; but as it would bring them near the largest portion of the English army, and between two of their strongest forts, Dunois, the best judge of the expediency, condemned it as extravagant; and the chief officers, pretending to comply with her wishes, followed this governor's instructions, of proceeding on the other bank, by the road of Sologne¹.

The two first nights they rested in the fields; and the Maiden, preferring to sleep in her armor, found herself indisposed from it. On the third day they came in sight of Orleans, with their little fleet of supplies, to the only spot where the height of the river would admit of its unloading. This was so near one of the forts of the English, that she could distinguish their features. Dunois sent the ships that were to receive the relieving cargoes; but the wind setting down the river, it was found impossible for the vessels, against that and the stream, to get back to the city; nor

CHAP.
VII.1429.
27 April.¹ Charm. v. 2, p. 2.

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nor could they cross the river at that point, in sight and defiance of the English forces. No other plan remained, but to return and adopt her first suggestions, which all regretted they had disobeyed. She blamed them for deceiving her; and with high courage recommended an immediate attack on the English fortress, that most commanded this part of the river. This dangerous experiment was declined, and Dunois came to them in a boat to confer. It was determined that it was better for the troops to go back to the rout she had advised at her outset; and for the vessels to get lower down, and wait a change of circumstances². Although it was the occurrence of the contrary wind, which had defeated Dunois' prudent scheme, yet this accidental failure, and the necessary preference of her first counsel, gave her an aspect of inspiration, which increased every confidence in her mission.

The troops were marched back to Blois, to pass the river by the bridge, and she was persuaded by Dunois to accompany him in his vessel, with La-Hire, and a few selected companions; while the change of the wind facilitated the introduction into the city, of the provisioned vessels. A sally of the garrison was made, to occupy the attention of the besiegers; and she sailed up the river to Checy, about six miles from the walls. Disembarking, and waiting there till the shades of evening made the movement less observable, she rode, with few attendants, unmolested because unnoticed, to the eastern gate of the city, which opened to receive her³. It is obvious, that Suffolk had taken no measures to blockade it by water, nor even to watch the stream with any precautionary force.

She enters
Orleans,
30 April
1429.

Orleans was beginning to suffer the hardships of famine, when she entered it, an hour after sunset, in her armor, on a white horse, with her standard carried floating before her. The citizens of both sexes met her with their flaming torches, and with exulting shouts. One of them waving his light too near her banner, it caught

² Depos. Dunois, Pasquerel, De Contes, Beaucroix, and others; and the Chronique, v. 2, p. 6—13.

³ Depos. ib. Journal du Siege, 14—20.

caught fire. She spurred on her horse immediately, seized it, and extinguished the flames⁴. She went first to the principal church to pay her devotions. She answered the applause of the multitude, by sweet and gentle exhortations of confidence and hope. She was conducted to the house of the treasurer of the city. His wife joyfully received such a guest. She had been on horseback all day without dismounting or disarming, and without food. She took off her armor. A splendid supper was provided for her; but pouring some water on a little wine in a silver cup, she contented herself with a few sippets of bread, which she dipped in it, and retired to an early rest with the wife and daughter of her host⁵.

She attended a military counsel the next day, but was opposed in her desire to act before the convoy had arrived. After sending heralds with menaces and defiance in the evening⁶, she went to a bulwark, so near the English station at the Tournelles, as to be heard from it, and summoned them to raise the siege, or to surrender. Glasdale, who was there, abused her coarsely. She replied, with an indignant declaration of their compulsory retreat; but that he should not live to witness it⁷. The English reviled and threatened to burn her; but a remark of Dunois shows, that their minds already began to be affected by her pretensions, for they kept more than usual within their forts; and when they came out, were easily driven back⁸. Her claims and prophecies had spread among both armies; and as both sides admitted alike, Angelic and Satanic agency, she was equally formidable to their imaginations, whether Michael or Beelzebub assisted her.

These feelings may account for the easy passage of the convoy to the city. When Dunois went with some of his best warriors to meet it, Joan, with others, placed herself between the walls and the

⁴ Journal, du Siege, 22.

⁵ Chron. sans titre, p. 24. The Chevalier d'Aulon was appointed by the king to attend specially upon her. His deposition is given at length by Dufresnoy in his *Histoire de la*

Pucelle. V. 1, p. 104—133, 2nd part. It will be cited from this work.

⁶ Dep. and Chron. 29—32.

⁷ Dep. de Contes. Journal, 40. 41.

⁸ Dep. Dun. and L'Huilliers, 41.

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the besiegers to favor its movement⁹. Such was the effect of her appearance and activity, that when she presented herself at another of the English posts, and commanded them to return to England or to perish, her voice intimidated those whom no sword had hitherto subdued. Instead of attacking, they insulted her, but kept within their lines¹⁰; as if dreading the power of some infernal witchcraft. When the relieving forces appeared, advancing to the city with a solemn pace, preceded by her banners, and by the priests of St. Blois chanting their hymns, the English looked on with the same awed inactivity, though a rich booty tempted. None ventured to go out to combat Satan or his emissary. All the succors and supplies passed safely into the city¹¹.

She retired to rest with her hostess, while her military conductor D'Aulon, fatigued with the exertions of the day, laid himself on a little couch in the same chamber to sleep. But in the dead of the night, she started up, with a wild and loud cry, that roused him. He inquired her wishes. "My adviser has told me, that I must attack the English¹²," exclaimed the Maid, as if waking from a fearful dream. "Where are those that should arm me? The blood of our countrymen is running on the ground. Why was I not sooner awakened? They need help. My arms! bring me my armor! lead my horse hither!¹³" D'Aulon immediately rose, and armed her and himself. They heard a great clamor. She sprang into the street, and meeting her page, exclaimed to him, "cruel boy! not to tell me that the blood of France was spilling!" she bade him bring her horse. It was soon before her. As she was mounting it, she remembered, that she had left her banner

⁹ Dep. D'Aulon. Dufres. 1, p. 112, 3. She was very zealous to repress the oaths of the soldiery; and La-Hire, to oblige her, agreed in future, as he could not leave off the habit, which was then a general part of all colloquial eloquence, to swear only by his baton. Dep. Seguin, 47.

¹⁰ Journal du Siege, 43. She gave her orders with a great assumption of authority;

she told Dunois, when he mentioned that the English expected reinforcements under Falstoffe, 'As soon as you know of his coming, apprise me of it, for if he passes without my knowledge, I promise you that I will take off your head.' Dep. D'Aul. 114.

¹¹ Dep. Pasq. 51, and D'Aulon, 113.

¹² Dep. D'Aulon, 114, 5.

¹³ Dep. Pasq. Colette, and others, 56.

banner in the room, and ordered him to fetch it. Too ardent to await his descent, she called to him to throw it to her from the window: he obeyed, and spurring her horse to a speed that struck fire from his feet, she reached the gate where the greatest uproar was raging¹⁴. These emotions resemble a sudden access of delirium, but they coincided with the surrounding circumstances, and were thought to be supernatural.

A part of the garrison, elevated by their enthusiasm, had devoted themselves without the knowledge of the governor, to attack the English bastille St. Loup, that formed one of the most advanced posts of the siege. It had been strongly fortified and supplied by Talbot, with every munition of war. The French, in their impetuosity, had possessed themselves of the redoubt that covered it. But the English, recovering from their panic, drove them back, and pursued them to the city. Here Joan met them running in; and one wounded man being carried near her, she shrunk back, and said, "I have never seen a Frenchman's blood without my hair rising up." Recovering herself, she rushed forwards with her standard flying, and went directly towards the English bastilles¹⁵.

Her first efforts.

The French rallied on seeing her. Dunois arrived with a reinforcement, and she assaulted the intrenchment with them. During three hours of fierce conflict, she displayed instinctively the talent of an experienced warrior, as well as the bravery of a young enthusiast. Talbot brought troops from his other strong holds, with their English courage reviving by exertion. The loudest bell of the city was twice sounded to apprize the French of his approach. Six hundred and more enthusiastic fresh combatants, roused by the alarm, with the bravest chiefs, issued to meet him; and the struggle at last ended towards evening in the capture of the English fort¹⁶.

Joan

¹⁴ Dep. D'Aul. 115. De Contes the page, and Colette, 57, 8.

¹⁵ Dep. of the Page, Pasq, and others, 60; and of D'Aulon, 116.

¹⁶ Several Depositions, and the Journ. and Chron. p. 62, 3. One hundred and forty English were killed, 40 taken prisoners, and 200 escaped by flight. Journ. du Siege, 63.

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Joan passing over the field, strewed with their bodies, regretted their having died without confession. She spared the lives of the prisoners who were taken, and who had put on ecclesiastical habit for their preservation. The captured fortress was rased, and its materials burnt¹⁷.

This signal success, the first triumph of the new-souled French, ensured more. The limbs obey the spirit, and the spirit of the French was now raised to the most determined feats of heroic daring, by the most believing confidence of victory and of heavenly aid. As the next day was Ascension day, she would neither fight nor arm herself from respect to its solemnity. A military counsel was held in the city, where it was determined to make a feigned attack on the bastilles or forts, on the side of La Beausse, but to make a real assault, at a different point on that of St. John, which commanded the passage of the Loire. This resolution was communicated to her. She advised the religious act of confession previous to the attempt; and to satisfy her own aversion to the shedding of blood, she tied another summons to the point of an arrow, and bid an archer shoot it among the English. She saw them stoop, and read it; but was only greeted with abuse as the strumpet of the Armagnacs. At this insulting word, she burst into tears, and appealed to heaven to testify her innocence¹⁸.

Her next
attack.

The next day they moved to the attack. From the extent of the English works for its defence, they could not reach it by land; and they embarked in different parties to meet on a small island in the river, and placed their boats to serve as bridges¹⁹.

When they reached the fort St. John, they found it abandoned. Glasdale had evacuated it to centre his forces in the stronger fortification of the Augustins, which adjoined it. Mistrusting some snare, and believing themselves to be incompetent to master the

¹⁷ Journ. Chron. 65.

¹⁸ Dep. Pasq. 69, 70.

¹⁹ Dep. D'Aul. 117. This islet is not now visible in the Loire. Charm. 73.

the stronger work, they prepared to retreat; but while the main body retired, some of the bravest Frenchmen were ordered to remain behind, to keep the English from harrassing them²⁰.

Joan could not submit to this cautious recession; and as they were returning to the island, she crossed the stream with the brave La-Hire in a boat, and immediately mounted her horse on the other side, and advanced. The English were now rushing out to pursue. She and her companions couched their lances, and so vigorously attacked their opponents, that they retired into the fort²¹.

At this period, as her appointed conductor D'Aulon, was with a Spaniard guarding the floating bridge, the point of retreat, a large and powerful knight rode by them, whose refusal to stop to assist them, so roused the Spanish pride, that words arose; and the two disputants agreed to rush together, upon the enemy, and prove which of them was the bravest. Spurring their steeds, they emulated each other till they had penetrated, as far as the English pallisades. A strong and sturdy knight of England there checked them. D'Aulon pointed him out to a canoneer, and bid him fire; he did so, and the defender fell. The two rival knights then gained the passage, and all the rest seeing their entrance, rushed after to follow them. A furious battle ensued. The French party continued to pour to the spot. Joan distinguished herself by her courage and exertions, and to the surprise of all her friends, as evening fell, they became masters of the place²². It was full of booty; but fearing, if they plundered it, that the English might rally, she commanded it to be set on fire²³.

She takes
a fort.

Pursuing their victory, they immediately besieged the next English fortification, the Tournelles; and the inhabitants of Orleans were busily occupied during the night, in carrying bread, wine, and provisions in numerous boats, to their excited and new venturous countrymen. But so perilous did their bravery seem to the elder

²⁰ Dep. D'Aul. 118. Chron. 75, 7.

²¹ Dep. D'Aul. 119. Chron. 78.

²² Dep. D'Aul. 119—121. Journ. Chron. 82.

²³ Chron. 83.

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elder chiefs of the city, that they sent a knight to inform her, that being so inferior in number to the English army, they had resolved, as the city was now well supplied, not to sally again from it, but to wait the further succors of their king²⁴.

It had been Joan's custom to fast strictly on the Friday; and she had taken no refreshment during this arduous exploit. It was with difficulty she had been persuaded to return to Orleans. "Shall we leave our friends in danger," was her generous observation. But when she had yielded to their intreaties, and after her repast had received the message, that the troops were not to pursue the meditated attack, she exclaimed, "You have held your counsel; but the will of my Lord shall be accomplished, while that of man will perish;" then turning to her chaplain, "rise you at break of day, and earlier than this morning, for I shall have greater efforts to make." Then, as if foreseeing the arduous struggle that must ensue, and fixing her own resolution to incur every risque, she added, "that she should be wounded in the approaching conflict²⁵."

A confusion of mind, and a dispiriting alarm, appeared now to increase among the English, who had been hitherto so invincible. They burnt, during the night, another of the bulwarks; and crossing the river, concentrated their forces in a more distant one; so that the Tournelles alone remained in their occupation, on the south of the city²⁶.

The Maiden rose from an agitated sleep, and was heading the troops that chose to follow her. A peasant, at that moment, presented her with a fish, which she was desired to stay to eat. "Keep it till night," was her reply; "and I will bring you a Godon to partake of it, after I have taken the Tournelles²⁷."

She

²⁴ Dep. D'Aul. 122. Dep. Pasq. 85. Journal du Siege, 83.

²⁵ Dep. Pasq. 84—6; and others.

²⁶ Chron. 87.

²⁷ The witness Colette deposed, p. 88, that

Godon was a nick name for the English, taken from their common exclamation of 'God damn it'; so that this vulgarity was a national characteristic in the reign of Henry VI.

She found the gate of the city closed against her passage. The lord of Gaucourt, the grand master of the king's household, had orders to stop her. She insisted on going out, and the populace so furiously echoed her wishes, that resistance was found vain; and at sun rise, her enthusiastic followers rushed eagerly through with her; and forced open another small outlet to follow her²⁸.

They crossed the river, and at ten o'clock began a general assault on the strongly defended fort, which, from its numerous artillery, was deemed impregnable. Cannon was used vigorously on both sides. Finding the affair inevitable, all the chiefs in the city joined. The knights sprang into the ditches, and fought hand to hand with the bravest English. These met them with their accustomed heroism. But the spirit of the French had now become as exalted, and as determined, as their own. Though numbers fell in the onset, others still rushed on, "as if they had been immortal." The Maiden was every where. Her exertions, her skill, her courage, and the fatigue she endured, surprised all. At times she led; at times she rallied; at times she exhorted. "Have good heart and good hope" was her cry. "The hour is coming, when the English will give way; all will yet be well." Finding at last, that they began to despair, she seized a ladder; raised it vigorously; the first that had been tried; and placed it against the bulwark. At that moment an arrow whizzed near her, and fixed itself between her neck and shoulders. She fell instantly. A body of English rushed around her. She half raised herself, and

²⁸ Dep. of the Page, who was present, and of Simon Charles, 89, 90. This is a very important point of the Maiden's history, as it proves that the turning success of the contest was wholly owing to her own energy. S. Charles had his account from Gaucourt, and stated, that Gaucourt kept the gate shut, and at the head of his troops, declared that no one should pass. These words excited a general clamor against him. Joan advancing to him, and commanding the populace to silence, exclaimed,

'You are a bad man; but whether you will or no, the men at arms shall go, and shall prevail to day as they have already done.' She then ordered the gate to be opened. The crowd rushed to execute her orders; and Gaucourt and his men found themselves so surrounded, and endangered by the irritated populace, that they dared not oppose it. Gaucourt declared, that he was in fear of his own life. Dep. S. Charl. 90.

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and still kept them off with her sword, till De Gamache, who had been her enemy in the council, seeing her danger, sprang on them with his battle axe, and felled those who endangered her. He placed her on his horse. She was borne off, disarmed, and laid on the grass. The wound was found to be very deep. Her courage, for a moment, gave way; the woman dissolved the enthusiast and the heroine, and she burst into tears. But her ardent spirit soon conquered her apprehensions, and her delusive impressions returned. She said that her heavenly protectress, at that moment, appeared to her, and consoled her. She plucked out the arrow herself, and as the blood profusely followed it, she told them, "It is my glory, not my blood, that is flowing from the wound." Some soldiers came to charm the evil. But she repelled them angrily, "I would rather die than do any thing that I know to be a sin, or contrary to the divine will." She was asked, if she should die from it: "I must die some day; but I know not where, or when, or how. If any one can cure me without a crime, I wish to be relieved." A dressing of lard and olive oil was applied. She begged the crowd to fall back, and confessed herself with much emotion, as if expecting death²⁹.

Her wound had spread consternation, through the French army, and their chiefs recommended them to return. They had fought unavailingly the whole day, and the dimness of evening was beginning. The trumpets sounded a retreat; the artillery was withdrawn; and the troops quitted the foot of the bulwark³⁰.

Thus far the Maiden appeared to have urged the French, against the opinion of their regular leaders, to an enterprize which was found, as had been foreseen, to be beyond their strength. But Joan heard these tidings with poignant anguish. She felt that if she failed now, her reputation and her cause would be extinguished. She implored Dunois to halt. "You shall soon enter it. Do not doubt,

²⁹ See the depositions and extracts from the Chronicle, collected by des Charmettes on these facts, 91—98.

³⁰ Dep. Dunois, and Journal de Siege, 98, 9. Dep. D'Aul. 122, 3.

doubt it; when you see my banner floating on the walls, resume your arms. It shall then be your's. But rest awhile now, and refresh yourselves³¹."

They did so; and her own strength returned. She gave her banner to a soldier to hold, near the fort; and mounting her horse, prayed a quarter of an hour apart³². Their successful repulse of this assault, recalled the English mind to its accustomed bravery.

D'Aulon, her appointed attendant, now from himself began a movement, which renewed the conflict, and led to its important issue. Observing that the bearer of her banner was fatigued, he ordered a stout Basque soldier to uphold it. It then occurred to him, that great disasters would follow their retreat, and the hope of taking the fortress would be abandoned. The flag suggested to him the idea, that if it were carried towards the enemy, the army would not forsake it. He resolved, without further counsel, to try the measure. He asked the soldier, if he had the courage to follow him with it to the foot of the rampart. The man promised; and D'Aulon, covering himself with his target, to keep off stones, they both entered the ditch. The Maiden, seeing her fondly-cherished banner thus moving, and dreading its loss, hastened to the spot, and caught hold of it, exclaiming, "My standard! my standard!" She carried it onward. Roused by her voice, and by seeing her again at the fosse, all the French warriors, recruited by their rest, suddenly rallied, and flew to her succor³³. Again the cannon and cross bows were plied on both sides, with new energies. The English used vehemently their lances, stones, and battle-axes; and the struggle was renewed more fiercely than before³⁴.

While the southern bulwark of the Tournelles was thus contended

³¹ Journ. du Siege. Dep. of her Page, 99.

³² Dep. Dunois, 18.

³³ Dep. D'Aulon, 123, 4. D'Aulon said the Basque wrenched it from her, and brought it to him; but Dunois thought she carried it herself to the fosse. p. 100. These are pro-

bably not contradictions, but successive incidents. Joan no doubt followed it, and most likely then took it forwards herself.

³⁴ Dep. Dun. Gauc. and Huillier, and Chron. p. 103, 4.

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tended for, the citizens of Orleans attacked its northern rampart; but the arches, that led up to it from the river, were broken. Beams were brought hastily from the city, to make a temporary bridge. The commander of the knights of Rhodes led the attack. The spears crossed, the bucklers clashed; but the impetuosity of the assailants bore down all resistance, and they rushed upon the redoubt³⁵.

Panic, hitherto resisted or forgotten, now unnerved the English mind. Their imaginations, dreading the supernatural, and looking out for it, saw saints and angels fighting for the French; as the Greeks beheld Mars and Venus in the Trojan ranks. Glasdale himself scarcely retained his firmness, when the Maiden rushed on the battlement with her standard, crying out to him, "Surrender! surrender to the King of Heaven! You have called me strumpet, but I pity your soul, and your friends." He meditated a retreat into the main defence, with his host³⁶; but the bridge on which they stood, that connected the outwork with the fortress, was at that moment struck by a cannon-ball, fired by D'Aulon's orders, which shivered it³⁷; and all, including Glasdale and lord Moleyns, were precipitated into the mud and water below, where they sank and perished, from the weight of their armor³⁸. Joan could not restrain her tears at their disaster³⁹. It was irreparable; and the whole of the fortress became immediately her conquest. The loss of the English, in the capture of the three bastiles, in which no quarter seems to have been given, was from 7 to 8,000 drowned, killed, or prisoners⁴⁰. Suffolk, Talbot, and the best English generals, witnessed these reverses of fortune, but either could not or did not make any movement to prevent them⁴¹. They seem to have

³⁵ Journ. du Siege. Chron. 106.

³⁶ Dép. Pasquerel, 108.

³⁷ Dép. S. Beaucroix, 108.

³⁸ Walsingham mentions the death of Glasdale and Lord Moleyns, by drowning, in his MS. History. MS. Sloane. 1776. This was

a severe loss, says the French journal of the siege, to the valiant French, because they lost the ransom of the drowned. p. 108.

³⁹ Dép. Pasq. 109.

⁴⁰ Charm. p. 110; and Monstrelet.

⁴¹ Chron. 111.

have trusted too much to the strength of the works, and to Glasdale's known resolution. That they made no relieving flank attacks on the assailants, remains an impeachment of their military judgment. They may have dreaded other sallies; but here was obviously a vital point of the whole siege in immediate peril.

Joan entered the city, gratulated by every heart and voice. The more improbable the prospect of the success had been, the greater was the admiration of its achievement. She had conquered the respect, the praise, and the gratitude of all. Every bell rang merrily, in triumph; the people rushed around her, and to the churches; and Te Deums were chanted at every altar. Retiring from the public transport, her wound was again dressed; and a few sippets in wine and water, formed the repast that closed her triumphant day⁴².

It was indeed a day of triumph to her, for it was that which really accomplished her patriotic adventure. The capture of the Tournelles saved Orleans, and rescued France. The English commanders held a council during the night, and resolved to raise the siege; a decision which eventually proved to be an abandonment of the sovereignty of France. Before sun-rise, their troops were seen marching out of their tents, and from the other bastiles, in two divisions: one spread to the west, under Talbot and Scales; the other northward, under Suffolk. They formed in order of battle; and the French, expecting a general attack, issued from the city to meet them. Joan, hearing of these movements, hastily put on a light military dress; and joining her friends, arranged them also for the conflict, but forbade them to attack. "It is the sacred sabbath, and if they chuse to go away, it is the divine will, that they should be permitted to depart; but if they assail you, defend yourselves strong and hardily, and fear not, for you shall be their masters⁴³."

She

⁴² Chron. Journ. Dep. Dunois, &c. 110—113.

⁴³ See the Depos. and Chron. in Charm. 114—116.

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I.

8 May,
1429.

She ordered an altar to be raised before the army, upon a table decorated with religious ornaments. She knelt humbly, and fell prostrate; and two masses were sung upon it. The English looked on, but did not stir. Such a novel incident increased their impressions of the supernatural. At the end of the second mass, Joan asked if the countenances of the English were still turned on the French? "They are looking towards Main," was the answer. "They are retiring," she replied; "let them go, and let us thank God. We will not pursue them, as it is Sunday." Talbot marched in complete array, with standards flying, towards Main and Baugence; and Suffolk towards Jargeau. Some of the French, however, could not be restrained by her orders; and following their rear, captured much of their artillery. It is obvious that Suffolk offered battle, and that Joan declined it. This repression of her ardor may have been the effect of her devotion, but no conduct could have been wiser. The population of Orleans rushed out on the abandoned works, feasted on their provisions, levelled the fortifications, and dragged their cannon and mortars into the city⁴⁴.

A deliverance, wonderful in the opinion of every one, had now been atchieved; and in the short space of eleven days from the time of Joan's departure from Blois; and with means that, according to human calculation, were inadequate to the attainment of a success so complete, so rapid, and so consequential. The siege had lasted seven months, with advantages that seemed to ensure the capture of the city; when the events of five days, produced by a young peasant girl but eighteen, drove an army that had never been conquered since Henry the Fifth had entered France, from

⁴⁴ Dep. of several; Chron. and Journ. 2 Charm. 115—119. The French seem to have been astonished at their own success. The citizens declared, that if the Maid had not come, they must have surrendered in a few days. The chief captains attributed the event to something more than human; and the duc d'Alençon avowed the same feeling; and thought he could have defended two

of the forts, the Tournelles and Augustins, against all the power of man, for at least six or seven days. Dep. D'Aulon, and others, 2 ch. 124—6. The 8th of May was appointed for an annual festival at Orleans, in commemoration of the deliverance. Ib. 127. She gave them her hat of blue satin, edged with gold, which she had worn in the city. Ib. 132.

from its endangered walls. It seemed a miracle; but it was the work of her persevering energy, her bravery, her skill, of the enthusiasm she had excited, and of some fortunate accidents to which we have alluded⁴⁵.

That she was the agent of a superhuman power, was now the general conviction. It did not benefit the English, to believe or to be taught that the Devil was her supernatural friend; his imputed malignancy and admitted power, only made his assumed adherents the more dreadful. Joan, therefore, became more terrible to the English camp, by the calumnies that were unwisely circulated to depreciate her. They could mock the Frenchmen, who declared that St. Michael assisted her; but they trembled at their own fancy, that the King of Hell was her ally⁴⁶.

Released

⁴⁵ The exploit of Joan was sung by Chapelain. His large poem, which had been eulogized for 20 years before its appearance, sank into irretrievable neglect afterwards, as Scuderi's rival, and not superior, Alaric emerged. They are two of the Blackmores of French epic poetry. One passage of Chapelain's Pucelle is amusing; he composes her of three beings, girl, man, and angel.

La ciel pour la former fit un rare melange,
Des vertus d'une fille et d'un homme et d'un
ange;

D'ou vient apres au jour, cet astre des François
Qui ne fut pas un d'eux, et qui fut *tous les*
trois.

⁴⁶ The Maiden has found a poet more worthy of her, in Mr. Southey, who has devoted to her, his first and one of his best heroic poems. In two passages he expresses so interestingly, his conceptions of her peculiar feelings, that the reader may thank me for transcribing them. The first is,

From that night I could feel my burthen'd soul
Heaving beneath incumbent Deity.

I sate in silence, musing on the days
To come, unheeding and unseeing all
Around me, in that dreaminess of thought,
When every bodily sense is as it slept,
And mind alone is wakeful: I have heard

Strange voices in the evening wind;—strange
forms,

Dimly discover'd, throng'd the twilight air.
The neighbors wonder'd at the sudden change,
And called me craz'd; and my dear uncle too
Would sit and gaze upon me wistfully,
A heaviness upon his aged brow,
And in his eye such trouble, that my heart
Sometimes misgave me. I had told him all
The mighty future labouring in my breast,
But that the hour methought not yet was come.

Vol. i. p. 25.

The other effusion is in a grander style of fancy.

A blessed spot! oh, how my soul enjoy'd
Its holy quietness! with what delight,
Escaping from mankind, I hasten'd there
To solitude and freedom! thitherward
On a spring eve I had betaken me,
And there I sate, and mark'd the deep red
clouds

Gather before the wind—the rising wind,
Whose sudden gusts, each wilder than the last,
Appear'd to rock my senses. Soon the night
Darken'd around, and the large rain drops fell
Heavy; anon tempestuously the gale
Howl'd o'er the wood. Methought the heavy
rain

Fell with a grateful coolness on my head,

And

Released from these dreams of superstition, we admit no superhuman agency for that, which natural means were competent to produce. The deliverance of Orleans, however extraordinary, sudden and unexpected, was but a splendid example of what heroic enthusiasm can achieve⁴⁷; and an illustration of the great results produceable in war, by attacking single points with masses of concentrated force. The military judgment of the day, on her own side, opposed, and on the English, ridiculed, her measures; but her determination impetuously pursuing them, all the valor, skill, and troops in Orleans were drawn into her course; and each of the forts was attacked successively, by the whole of this combining energy and strength; and each had to resist the general torrent, by merely its own defensive powers. It was the application of this principle, which gave to Napoleon his first successes in Italy, which for awhile resembled something more than human, when army after army of the Austrians was annihilated by his attacks. The novelty of such efforts ensures their success. Suffolk, fearing simultaneous assaults on other points, and doubtful if this was the real or the feigned one, and not then aware of the now acknowledged principle, that no fortress can be made impregnable against an adequate assailing force; and relying on the strength of his bulwarks, did not call together his troops from his surrounding works, and meet the French masses with his own, that must have overpowered them. But through the whole campaign, Suffolk displayed himself inferior in talent to the lamented Salisbury. If that nobleman had not fallen, the Maiden might have failed; for though Talbot was so famed as to be a French scarecrow for his bravery,

And the hoarse dash of waters, and the rush
Of winds that mingled with the forest roar,
Made a wild music. On a rock I sat,
The glory of the tempest fill'd my soul;
And when the thunders pealed, and the long
flash
Hung durable in heaven, and on my sight
Spread the grey forest, memory, thought,
were gone,

All sense of self annihilate, I seem'd
Diffus'd into the scene.—p. 29.

⁴⁷ I remember hearing the late marquis of Lansdowne, in the House of Lords, mention that he had once asked the celebrated duke of Brunswick, If he would rather command an army of disciplined troops, or of enthusiasts?—

“Of enthusiasts, most unquestionably,” was the answer.

bravery, yet it was rather as a valiant Paladin than as a skilful general: while Joan, without pretending to be so and without knowing it, from the instinctive sagacity of great natural genius, from her happy ignorance of all technical rules, from her soul of fire, her absorbing enthusiasm, and that virtual irresponsibility which hesitated at no difficulties, appeared in her actions, as a commander-in-chief superior to them all. If we pass beyond these considerations, to the providential dispositions of human events, we must be careful to make the important distinction between an instrument used, and an agent commissioned⁴⁸.

⁴⁸ M. Dufresnoy discusses six different systems, that have been given to explain the phenomenon of the Maiden. 1, magic; 2, a divine mission; 3, intrigue of Baudricourt; 4, politics of the court; 5, a denial of all the facts; 6, a strong persuasion of success. V. 2, p. 201—17.

HISTORY

OF

ENGLAND.

CHAP. VIII.

HER FURTHER MILITARY EXPLOITS AND CAPTURE.

BOOK
I.

THE retreat of the English from Orleans, was followed by a succession of greater reverses; but at first it was with some difficulty, that the Maid prevailed on the king to pursue vigorously the success that had been obtained. All that she counselled, was against the military judgment of her countrymen. Her enthusiasm, or her genius, gave a new and bolder wing to the tactics of war, which taught future commanders to dare, as well as calculate. Charles hesitated; and it was thought wiser to begin, by re-conquering Normandy¹; but she insisted that he should advance to Rheims to be crowned. Her energy and popularity, which amounted almost to an adoration, prevailed². An army was

¹ Dep. Dunois, 2 Ch. 147.

² We may perceive how she was estimated at the time by her friends, in the discourse which Gerson, one of the best and most intelligent doctors of the Parisian university, published, six days after she had raised the siege of Orleans. In this, he says, 'She seeks neither honors nor worldly men. She abhors hatreds, seditions and vanities. She lives in the spirit of mildness and prayers, in sanctity and justice. She employs no means of success, which the church forbids; no surprise;

no deceit: and she has no hope of any pecuniary advantage. She is sound in her belief; and exposes her body to wounds, without any extraordinary precaution to secure it. She has not been employed, till all proper inquiries and examinations have been made. The warriors obey her willingly, and expose themselves, under her orders, to all the dangers of war; yet all following the rules of prudence and of the military art. Charm. 2, 142, 143. M. Averdy Notices des MSS. 3, p. 110, 111.

was raised under the duc d'Alençon, to accomplish her wishes, which marched towards Jargeau³. The earl of Suffolk defended it with a superior garrison. The flower of the French chivalry was with Joan. She directed the artillery, with a correctness of eye and judgment that produced powerful effects, and after many skirmishes, an assault was resolved upon. At the sound of the trumpet to prepare, she put on her helmet, and bade the duke to follow her. He told her, it was not yet time. "It is time," she answered, "when it pleases God. It is time to act when he wishes us to act, and when he is acting himself." Seeing him still hesitate, she added, "Ah, gentle duke! are you afraid? Did I not promise your wife to bring you back sound and safe⁴?"

She advanced herself immediately to the breach, and was eagerly followed. A terrible conflict succeeded. Joan was seen mounting the ladder in the most perilous part. Arrows and stones were thrown at her innumerable. A large mass was hurled which struck down her standard, and glancing her helmet, felled her upon her knees. The English shouted in triumph. She sprang up with indignant ardor: "French! French! up! up! take courage! our Lord has condemned them. Even now they are ours." Roused by her voice and danger, a new spirit animated the assailants. They poured to her assistance. The garrison was overwhelmed, and the place was taken⁵.

CHAP.
VIII.

9 June,
1429.

Her capture
of Jargeau.
14 June,
1429.

The

³ Dep. D'Alenc. 2 Ch. 164. On the 8th June 1429, Guy the Seigneur de Laval thus describes her, in a letter to his mother. "She treated my brother and me very handsomely. She was intirely armed, excepting her head, and she had a lance in her hand. After we reached Selles, I went into her house to see her. She ordered some wine, and told me she would soon give me some to drink at Paris. There seemed something divine in her actions, and in seeing and hearing her. She went to-day, after hearing vespers, to Roromantin, the marshal and a great number of armed men with her. I saw her trying to mount a large black horse; she was in white

armor, except her head, with a little battle-axe in her hand. The steed was restive, and would not let her get on him. She called for the cross from a church near her, and then she mounted, and in a feminine voice bade the priests go in procession. She returned, handling her little battle-axe, and with a pretty page, displaying her standard. Her brother was with her, armed also in white. Lettre du Guy Sire de Laval. Mem. Fr. V. 7, p. 215—8 and 2 Ch. 155—163.

⁴ The duke had the candor to state this himself. Dep. 2 Ch. 174.

⁵ Dep. Chron. Hist. 2 Ch. 174—7.

BOOK

I.

1429.

Meun and
Baugency.

The duke of Bedford wrote, with alarming earnestness, to the English administration, on these disasters⁶. But the cardinal Beaufort divided their councils, and the war in France began to lose its popularity. Too many discordant interests were now springing up among the nobles and people of England to admit of a concentrated exertion against a distant enemy. No efforts, as great as the occasion demanded, were made; only a succession of inadequate reinforcements were sent, which were sufficient to protract, but not to prevent, the final disaster.

The progress of the Maiden continued victoriously. The bridge of Meun, on the 15th of June, was forced, though defended by lord Scales⁷, and Baugency was taken on the 28th of June, while Talbot had left it, to get more powerful means of defending it⁸. He collected afterwards, with Scales and Falstoff, a body of 4,000 Englishmen, and with these Joan ventured to fight her first pitched battle. It was her own battle, for when the English were found to be advancing, the duke d'Alençon asked her what was to be done. "Have you good spurs?" she exclaimed, with a loud sonorous voice. "What, then, are we to fly back?" was the reply. "No; it is the English that will be conquered: but you will need your spurs to ride well after them." By her orders, the French were placed in battle array. La-Hire was with them. "Strike hardily," she said to the chiefs; "they will not be long before they give way⁹."

Her confidence became theirs. The English lost their courage in their superstition. At the sight of her banner moving towards them, they fled. The presence of Satan could not have had more effect, than their firm belief of his auxiliar agency. They were pursued to Meun. Talbot attempted to rally them, but in vain; and

⁶ Rym. Fœd. 10, p. 408. In this document she is styled, 'The feende, called the Pucelle, that used fals enchantment and sorcerie.' The Journal of a Bourgeois of Paris calls her 'a creature in the form of a woman.' 2 Ch. 421.

⁷ 2 Ch. 188.

⁸ Ib. 190—204.

⁹ Dep. Dunois and others, 2 Ch. 205, 6.

and Falstoff thought it best to retreat till they could obtain effectual succors¹⁰. On his retiring, a feeble combat took place, ending in a disgraceful flight, which is called the battle of Patay. Talbot himself was taken prisoner, with lord Scales. It was the first field battle that the French had gained in the last eight years. Their victory was the more important to them, as the English numbers were nearly equal to their opponents¹¹. It is clear that Joan's military talent had become as great as her enthusiasm. She had the tact of discerning always the fittest movement, and of inspiring the requisite courage. Her judgment directed her spirit, and her spirit never failed her judgment. The coincidence was deemed inspiration, though whenever it occurs, with adequate authority aiding, it always works wonders.

This defeat alarmed the duke of Bedford for the safety of Paris. Applications were again made by him to Burgundy and England for succors; and one important fact ensued, which shows the extensive consequences that often result from events which seem to be unconnected with them. The little English army that cardinal Beaufort had raised for a crusade against the reformers of Bohemia, was diverted from that cruel object to assist the English interests in France¹².

Talbot was conducted to the French sovereign, and, at the generous request of the heroic Saintrilles, whose followers had made him prisoner, he was liberated without a ransom¹³. New troops, excited by the late successes, flocked on all sides to the army which the Maiden accompanied; and measures were prepared to extend its successes to the conquest of Rheims. At that time this city, and all the cities and fortresses of Picardy, Champagne,

¹⁰ Monstrelet, 2 Ch. 219.

¹¹ The greffier of the French parliament thus entered it on the registers: 'Les ennemis estans en presque pareil nombre.' 2 Ch. 223.

¹² The engagement with the cardinal for this altered destination of this force, was made

so soon after Joan's successes as the 1st July, 1429. Rym. Fœd. 10, p. 424—6.

¹³ 2 Ch. 243. Talbot had the satisfaction afterwards of making Saintrilles his prisoner, and of giving him liberty with the same disinterestedness and generosity. p. 244.

BOOK

I.

1429.

Charles
marches,
29 June;

Champagne, the Isle of France, Briè, Gartmois, L'Auxerrois, and Burgundy, and all the country between the Loire and the ocean, were in the occupation or at the command of the English¹⁴.

On the 29th of June, Charles began the expedition that was to seat him securely on his throne. His bravest nobles and knights, with the Maiden, accompanied him. Twelve thousand soldiers formed his army. The deputies of Auxerre met it with the solicitation of a neutrality, which was granted. Troyes resisted, till the wants of the besiegers became so great, that a large part of their army were some days without bread¹⁵. It was deliberated, whether they should not retreat from it, when Joan assured them, that if they would seriously attack it, she would introduce them into it in three days.

She took her standard, mounted her horse, assembled the troops, and made them place their tents on the brink of the ditches. She ordered the fascines to be prepared; all classes were immediately set to work to bring faggots, doors, tables, windows and rafters, for the purpose; and she passed the night with unwearied activity, in doing as much as two or three of the most experienced veterans could have accomplished¹⁶.

These preparations spread a panic through the city. As the day opened, the trumpets sounded, at her order, for the assault. The fascines were thrown into the ditches, and the troops were about to rush on, when the cry of capitulation became universal among the citizens, and the place was surrendered¹⁷.

Troyes and
Chalons
surrender,
9 July;

Chalons submitted as Charles approached it. As their march led them near her native village, many of her old neighbours came to see her. To one of their questions, whether she was not afraid of meeting death in so many battles, she answered in these remarkable words: "I fear only treason¹⁸." An affecting observation

¹⁴ Chron. sans titre, 2 Ch. 256.¹⁵ 2 Ch. 267.¹⁶ Various Dep. ib. 274, 5.¹⁷ 2 Ch. 276, 7.¹⁸ Dep. Conrad. 289.

observation; as it leads us to infer, that her penetrating mind had already discerned some indications of its occurrence.

CHAP.
VIII.

Charles continued his march to Rheims, yet doubting to the last of its successful termination. As they approached it, he said, they had neither cannons nor machines. "Mistrust not," she replied; "advance boldly; fear nothing. Act but the man, and you will obtain your kingdom. The inhabitants will even come out to offer you submission¹⁹." He reached the castle of Sept-Sault, about twelve miles from Rheims, and there rested his army. Her superior mind, fearless from its enthusiasm, and become sagaciously venturous from its successes, multiplied their number by not ceasing to pursue them. Pause and hesitation would have dissolved the charm, which she had fixed on the minds both of her friends and enemies.

Consternation at these movements, in the mean time, agitated Paris. Suspicion succeeding alarm, the magistrates were changed. An activity, which was rather bustle than vigour, ensued. Public addresses were made, to rouse the vindictive feelings of the populace against Charles. The regent collected all his garrisons out of Normandy, and applied to England for new reinforcements. Burgundy assured him of his continued alliance, but retired into Artois, and the duke of Bedford, leaving the command of Paris to one of his officers, proceeded, not to meet and encounter his royal competitor; not to prevent his advance to Rheims; but with a receding and disheartening movement towards Normandy and Picardy²⁰, either to preserve them, or to ensure a retreat.

As Charles advanced to Rheims, its inhabitants consulted with the English commander on his abilities to defend them. His unsatisfactory answer, joined with their natural inclinations, decided them to invite the descendant of their ancient line into their city; and on the evening of the eighteenth day of his expedition, Charles

enters
Rheims,
16 July,
1429;

¹⁹ Dep. Simon Charles, 301.

²⁰ 2 Ch. 291—301.

BOOK
I.

1429.

is crowned
there,
17 July.

Charles entered, with great solemnity, the venerated scene of the coronation of the kings of France²¹.

Joan had then the felicity of accomplishing the great project of her enthusiasm and of her patriotism. The day after his arrival, he was consecrated and crowned. Joan knelt, and embraced his legs with a flood of tears, the tribute of her sensibility and joy; and a new accession of warriors hastened to congratulate Charles, and to assist in producing his final triumphs²².

The Maiden might have now retired, with glory, to a private and much honored life. Reason, and perhaps virtue, would have thus counselled her. It is intimated that she wished it; but the evidence is not satisfactory. If she had actually resolved upon it, her firmness would have executed her intention. Her soul was, in truth, too great for a private station, and had been too much excited, to be contented with the gentle flow of ordinary life. She preferred the storms of grandeur, and she surrendered herself to the chances of its evils. Fond of activity, and anxious to leave nothing undone that seemed practicable, she wrote to the duke of Burgundy, assuring him, that he would gain nothing by further hostilities, and beseeching him to war with her friends no more²³. Her father joined her at Rheims, perhaps the happiest spirit of all its brilliant and exulting crowds²⁴.

Bedford
challenges
Charles VII.
7 August.

The king of France now summoned Soissons and Laon, and they surrendered. He proceeded to Chateau Thierry and Provins, while the duke of Bedford, uniting his forces at Melun, marched along the Seine to Montereau, as if to act in his enemy's rear. From thence he sent a herald to Charles, with a letter of defiance²⁵.

But

²¹ 2 Ch. 302—5.

²² Ib. 307, and 317. He describes the ceremony, 310—18,

²³ See the letter in 2 Ch. 308.

²⁴ The archives of Rheims preserved an account of the sums paid him for his expences there, during the king's coronation; they were 24 Parisian livres. 2 Ch. 322. Charles went

afterwards to the bourg de Corbeny, to get the virtue of touching for the evil. p. 323.

²⁵ Monstrelet, V. 6, p. 287—291. In this letter he calls Joan 'a woman of a disorderly and infamous life, and dissolute manners, dressed in the clothes of a man.' p. 288. It is dated 7 August, 1429.

But Charles advanced steadily towards Paris. Bedford hastened thither; but the French army obtained the command and the use of all the adjacent country.

CHAP.
VIII.

The two armies could not long delay the mutually desired and expected battle. Talbot and Suffolk had joined Bedford, and the bravest warriors on each side collected in the field of conflict; but the English had entrenched themselves with a skill that made their position too dangerous to be attacked. The French dared them to come out to the open plain; and as Bedford would risque nothing, only partial, though fierce, skirmishes ensued. The loss in these was equal; and the next day both armies fell back, without having gained any decisive advantage to either²⁶.

August,
1429.
Meeting of
the two
armies.

The French now penetrated into Normandy with their flying parties, and pressed earnestly their negotiations with the duke of Burgundy, to separate him from the English alliance. Bedford quitted Paris to defend the Norman provinces. Charles moved victoriously over other districts, and again advanced upon Paris. He reached St. Denis, and performed his devotions on the tomb of this saint, which the superstition of the day regarded as the palladium of France²⁷. About this time, Joan broke her mysterious sword, in the plebeian act of striking a loose woman and her companions with its flat side²⁸. In the fancies of that age, it was deemed ominous of some disaster; and she bitterly regretted both the loss and the weakness in yielding to the angry excitation that occasioned it. Paris resolved to resist the French king, and the royal army zealously attacked it. Joan again distinguished herself, and was severely wounded. The assault was unsuccessful. It was the first enterprize she had failed to accomplish; and, the 12th of September 1429, Charles returned to the Loire. The disaster greatly disconcerted her, and diminished her reputation; yet some thought, if the attack had been sufficiently persevered in, it would have succeeded²⁹.

Charles
advances to
Paris,
25th August;

compelled
to retire.

Bedford

²⁶ 2 Ch. 356—375.

²⁸ Dep. D'Alenc. Ch. 2, p. 399.

²⁷ Ib. 397.

²⁹ 2 Ch. 403—428.

BOOK

I.

1429.

Bedford had hastened to Paris, as soon as he heard of its being menaced. He arrived as Charles withdrew. His troops plundered St. Denis, but were repulsed at Lagny-sur-Marne³⁰.

But the event of the warfare now rested principally on the conduct of the duke of Burgundy. He began a change of policy, by several truces; but flattering propositions from Bedford kept him a little longer on the English side, and he joined the regent at Paris at the end of September. It was there discussed or arranged, that Burgundy should be the regent of France, and Bedford the governor of Normandy. It is at least certain, that the government of Paris was committed to Burgundy³¹; and he obtained from Charles a suspension of arms in favor of the capital and its vicinity.

The Maiden
is ennobled.

Various skirmishes, and attacks and defences, followed, but without deciding consequences. In December, Charles presented the Maid of Orleans with letters of nobility³², and directed her to wear its splendid garments³³. Her manners continued to display the same pious, modest, temperate and compassionate character, which she had always sustained. Greatness and fame diminished none of her virtues. Her military talents are strongly attested in several depositions³⁴. She appears to have been one of those self-taught geniuses who are formed to excel in war, and become, when opportunity presents the avenue, the great commanders of their day. She obviously loved heroic deeds, and military celebrity. It is her higher praise, that she added to warfare a probity and a humanity, with which it had then been very rarely accompanied³⁵.

But

³⁰ Char. V. 3, p. 11.

³¹ Ch. 3, p. 21, 2.

³² See in Charm. V. 3, p. 47.

³³ Ib. 55.

³⁴ 3 Charm. 63, 64.

³⁵ She declared, that in all her expeditions she had never killed any one. One of her

natural answers to the questions of her judges shows the popular feeling towards her. 'Many people came of their own accord to see me; and if they kissed my hands and my clothes, I could not help it. The poor people came to me of their own will, because I never did them any harm, and assisted them, as far as was in my power.' 3 Ch. 376.

But the history of her extraordinary triumphs drew near its close. She had saved her country; she was now to perish, that her mental delusions might not be a permanent and popular superstition. She went from Bourges with the seigneur d'Albret, to St. Pierre le Monstra, and took it by assault. She failed before Charité-sur-Loire. Impressions of approaching evils began to affect her spirits. She prayed that she might not be taken in battle alive. She believed that she received celestial intimations of the misfortune that was to befall her. She withdrew herself from the military councils, contenting herself with implicitly obeying the dictates of others; and she awaited the issue with all the resignation of visible despondence³⁶.

To counteract the effect of the coronation of Charles at Rheims, Henry VI. was brought to Paris in April 1430, and was crowned king of France; another public instance, that the most valued objects of human grandeur are sometimes nearest their final departure, at the very period when they seem to be most completely attained. New efforts were made to reinforce the English army from the parent island; but the excursions of the troops of Charles repeatedly shook Paris with inquietude and distress.

The Maiden now obtained her last success. She defeated, with considerable difficulty, and after great personal exertions, a body of English or Burgundians, near Lagny. The duke of Burgundy advanced from Noyen, and besieged Choisi, near Compeigne. Joan made an unsuccessful effort to relieve Choisi, and retired to Compeigne. Many of the French chieftains, from want of provisions, had left the army she accompanied, and withdrawn to the Loire. Choisi surrendered, and the allies, proceeding to besiege Compeigne, she threw herself, with heroic imprudence, into the place, and resolved to defend it against the Burgundians, who were now joined by 1,500 English, under the earls of Huntingdon, Arundel, and Suffolk.

May,
1430.

Her last victory at Lagny.

23 May,
1430.

She

³⁶ 3 Ch. 98.

BOOK

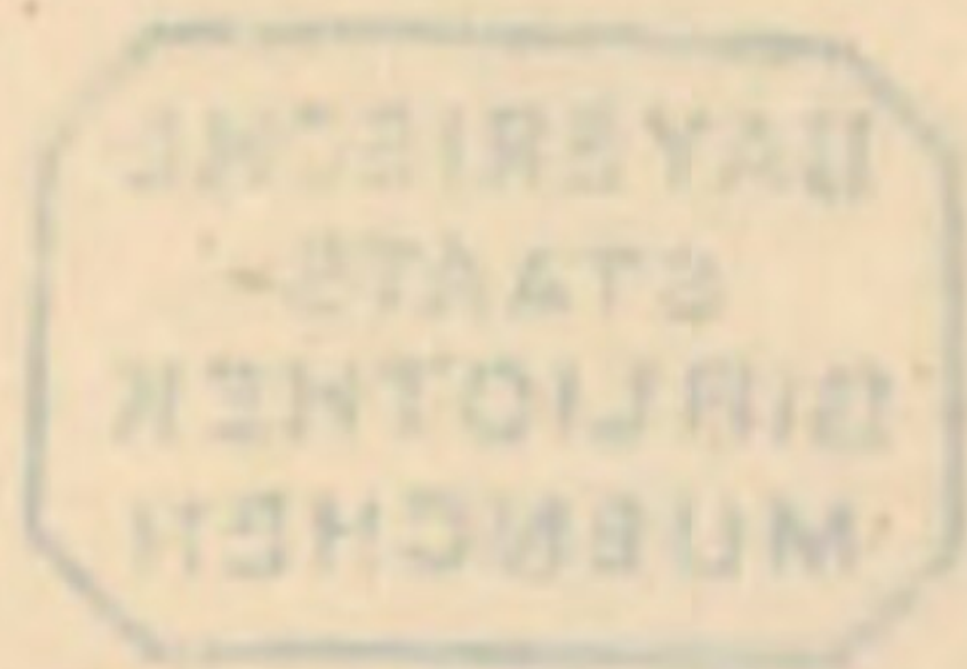
I.

1430.

She attempted a sally, with 600 men, so late as five o'clock in the afternoon. She was dressed, with a conspicuous singularity, in a purple silk or velvet tunic, brodered with gold and silver, which covered her armor. Her steed, neither a war-horse nor a palfrey, assisted to distinguish her. Three times she charged her numerous enemies, but they rallied and repulsed her. The French retreated, and were pursued. The Maiden followed behind them, frequently turning round to check the pursuit. The English made an advance between them and the city, to intercept their entrance. This movement excited a general panic, and all fled confusedly towards the gates. The bells of the city now sounded an alarm at the danger of the Maid. The Burgundians charged furiously on the body she headed. She was soon left alone, holding her standard firmly in one hand, while, with her sword in the other, she beat off her assailants. Her steady valor enabled her to reach even the foot of the city bridge; but there, hindered from passing it by the crowd that thronged it, or by the sudden shutting of the barriers, she was, in the terror and confusion of the moment, left to the mercy of her foes. She cut a passage through them, and attempted to gain the fields towards Picardy; but a soldier following, seized her tunic, and pulled her from her horse. She was soon overpowered and taken by her exulting adversaries. The news of her captivity was eagerly circulated. The Parisians made their bonfires, and sang their Te Deums of rejoicing; and dismay, for a short interval, startled the friends of the French king, who valued Joan³⁷; yet, as her fame was becoming inconvenient

³⁷ 3 Char. 127—133. Her own account of her capture was, 'I entered Compeigne at a secret hour of the morning, without my enemies knowing of it; and I made the same evening the sally in which I was taken. My voices at Easter had told me, I should be taken before Midsummer. They repeated this almost every day. I begged that I might then die soon, without being long in prison. I asked to know the time of my being captive.

They would not tell me. If I had known it, I would not have gone there. In the sally I passed over the bridge and bulwark, and twice drove back the Luxembourg troops to their quarters, and the third time, half way. The English then intercepted my party. They fled, and I withdrew into the fields, towards Picardy, and was taken near the bulwark. I was on horseback. I asked nothing of my king but good arms, good horses, and money to



inconvenient for political gratitude, and her aid was no longer essential to the public safety, the court felt relieved from a debt which they could never pay; and those whom she eclipsed, emerged out of their shade and inferiority, on her downfall.

to pay my household; and I have only 10 or 12,000'—the word, whether livres or escus, is here wanting. Her Answers on 10 March 1431, 3 Ch. p. 390—395.

BOOK

I.

1430.

Her attempts
to escape.

HISTORY

OF

ENGLAND.

CHAP. IX.

HER EXAMINATIONS, TRIAL, AND DEATH.

BOOK

I.

1430.

Her attempts
to escape.

THE vicar-general of the inquisitor of faith in France, friar Martin, claimed, from the authority committed to him by the Pope, the unfortunate prisoner, that she might be proceeded against as a vehemently suspected heretic¹. But the Burgundians sent her to the castle of Beaulieu. She attempted to escape, by forcing her slender body between two pieces of wood, through which she had made an opening; and was locking her guards in the tower, from which she meant to reach the fields, when the porter by chance came near her. He raised an alarm, and compelled her to re-enter her prison. She was removed to Beauvoir, by John of Luxemburg, the duke of Burgundy's kinsman, where his wife and her sister treated her with a kindness that announced a noble sensibility; yet she was kept in the donjon, but not chained, four months. She declined the ladies' offer of female garments².

The university of Paris disgraced itself by urging her trial before an ecclesiastical tribunal, as one suspected of magic and witchcraft;

¹ See his letter, 3 Charm. 144.

² Monstrel. V. 6, p. 348. Her Answers, 3 Ch. 384 and 370.

witchcraft; and that she should be delivered up to the bishop of Beauvais and the inquisitors³. The bishop also required her to be given up to the church; and, as she was taken in his diocese, that he should be her judge; and that pecuniary remunerations should be given to her captors, that she might not be considered a prisoner of war⁴: an abominable subtlety, to procure her murder. The payment of the money was to ransom her from captivity, that she might then be seized by the cruel emissaries of the papal church.

It was October before these sanguinary negotiations took effect. But Joan's mind, obeying the impulses of nature, and forgetting her sacred pretensions, had become so alarmed at the reports which reached her, that she attempted to liberate herself, by a desperate leap from the top of the lofty tower in which she was confined. She fell senseless at the foot of the rampart, but was not killed. She was taken up nearly lifeless, and carried back to her prison. For two or three days she neither eat nor drank, but gradually recovered to be taken to Arras, and from thence to Crotoy⁵.

In the mean time Compeigne, after a valorous resistance of six months, in which the abbot of St. Faro distinguished himself by his sword, was about to surrender, when a vigorous effort, under Saintrilles,

³ See their letters, 3 Ch. 150, 1. This prelate 'qui haïssoit mortellement le parti Français, parceque Charles VII. retenait ses revenus; et la pucelle, parcequ'il la regardoit comme la première cause de son bannissement, se pretendit juge naturel de la pucelle, qui avoit été arretée dans le territoire de son diocese.' 3 Char. 148.

⁴ L'Averdy Notice des MSS. V. 3, and Char. 3, p. 153—155. Monstrelet charges her with having caused Franquet d'Arras, whom she had taken in battle, to be beheaded, V. 6, p. 343. When she was questioned on this act, she answered, 'I consented to his being put to death, if he deserved it, because he confessed that he was a murderer, a robber,

and a traitor. His process lasted 15 days. I desired him to be exchanged for a person at Paris; but when I found that this person was dead, and the bailiff of Senlis told me that I should do a great offence to justice to deliver Franquet, I said, Do to him, then, as you ought in justice to do.' 3 Ch. 425, 6. This deed presses most on the Maiden's memory. He was a prisoner of war, as she was, and she directed or permitted him to be put to death!

⁵ 3 Charm. 160—3. The castle of Crotoy is now destroyed, and sands, from the mouth of the Somme, have long covered its foundations. Ib. 163.

BOOK

I.

1430.

Saintrilles, was made to relieve it, and succeeded. The besiegers were compelled to abandon their attempt; and this disappointment was followed by a severe defeat, which the English and Burgundians sustained in December⁶. These victories of the French contributed to ensure their independence; but filled the minds of her opponents with an exasperation, which fell heavily on the poor Maiden, who had begun these unexpected reverses.

The English government now degraded itself by commanding her legal prosecution. Yet not on that alone, must the shame of this inhuman measure descend. The English soldiery, smarting under their disappointments and disasters, hated her cordially, and wished her death. The absurd conviction which pervaded their party, that she was the agent of devils, and had wrought her great achievements by their instrumentality, whose effects could only end with her life, hardened every heart against her; and they expected no military success till she was destroyed⁷.

She is taken
to Rouen.

She was carried to the prison of the great tower at Rouen; her feet and legs were fettered to a strong chain, which traversed the end of her bed, and was locked to a large piece of wood, five feet long. Another chain was fastened round the middle of her thin and spare body, so that she could not move from her place. A cage of iron was sworn to have been made for her, in which she was fastened by the neck, feet, and hands, from the time of her arrival at Rouen, to the first day of her trial⁸. Three Englishmen passed the night in her chamber, and two more watched on the outside. It is with pain we remark, that they behaved to her with great brutality; but the imputation of witchcraft had made her an outcast from human nature.

Her trial,
and sentence,
January
1431.

The bishop of Beauvais, and the deputy of the grand inquisitor, consulted on the form of the process; and what was called her trial, was arranged according to the forms of the inquisition, in the following January, and actually began in the next month.

These

⁶ 3 Charm. 165—175.

⁷ Several Depositions, 3 Ch. 177, 8.

⁸ 3 Ch. 182. Dep. 4. Ch. 148.

These men seem to have been her presiding judges⁹. Depositions were taken as to the circumstances of her life and actions. Her person was examined by the dutchess of Bedford, and some matrons; and she was fifteen times brought before her judges, and very minutely interrogated, between the 21st of February and the 17th of March. But the event depended neither on her answers, nor on the evidence. Her answers clearly showed, that she had been guilty of no crime, but patriotism and enthusiasm, mingled with impressions, which her personal manner and countenance, must have satisfied her examiners were mental hallucinations, not impious impostures. The unprejudiced and the humane would have admired and pitied her; but policy and bigotry condemned her; and to a cruel death. The English bravery was seduced from its habitual generosity by the mistaken hope, that her disgraceful execution would destroy the talisman which had reversed their successes; and it stooped to avail itself of the credulity, trick, injustice, and cruel prejudice, which doomed a prisoner of war to be burnt for sorcery and witchcraft. The name of England was too much implicated in this foul transaction, to be now cleared from inciting and enforcing it. But our present feelings of regret and resentment at the misconduct of our ancestors, are evidences that our hearts are uncorrupted, and our national character unchanged. Yet such incidents cannot but make us feel with awe, alarm, and self-distrust, that the most reputable individuals may countenance actions the most unworthy, without being sensible, at the time, either of the crime or the disgrace. What can protect us from such delusions, when passion or self-interest tempts, but a steady conviction, that no motive can justify a wrong action at any time, under any circumstances, or for any end.

The sequel is painful both to read and to narrate. She became ill, and the earl of Warwick sent physicians to her, with this injunction: "The king would not have her by any means die a natural

Efforts to
make her
abjure.

⁹ See the list of all the members and officers of the tribunal, in 3 Char. 232—240.

BOOK
I.

a natural death. He has bought her dear, and is desirous that she should die by justice, and be burnt. Visit her, therefore, and cure her." They found her in a fever, and told him they must bleed her. "Beware of that," the earl replied; "she is cunning, and may kill herself¹⁰." She recovered. Her sentence was read to her. She refused to lay aside her male attire, except to take the sacrament¹¹. She was at one time threatened with torture; but she calmly braved it. "If pain should draw from me false confessions, it will be your violence that will force them from me¹²." It was not inflicted. The dutchess of Bedford kindly brought her female clothes, to lessen the irritation against her; she declined them; and when the tailor put his hand on her neck, to take off her dress, she struck him with indignation at the affront¹³. New efforts were made to induce her to appear in the garments of her sex, to confess the crimes imputed to her, and to abjure them. She exclaimed, "All that I have done, and all that I do, I have done well, and am doing well to act so." They promised her liberty; she was shaken for a moment, but at last said, "You will have a great deal of trouble to seduce me¹⁴." On further urgency, she agreed to sign the abjuration they brought, if the clergy and the church advised it. "Sign now," said Erard, a doctor of theology, "or you will finish your life to-day in the flames." She told him, she would rather sign than be burnt. The English secretary put a paper into her hands. She said, she could neither read nor write. They gave her a pen, and made her repeat the abjuration after them. She did so, and smiled, and drew a circle at the bottom of the paper. The secretary took her hand, and made her mark a cross¹⁵. She consented

¹⁰ One of the physicians swore to these circumstances. 4 Ch. 68.

¹¹ 4 Ch. 83.

¹² 4 Ch. 89.

¹³ 4 Ch. 93.

¹⁴ Depositions of several, 4 Ch. 125, 6.

Her inflexibility about her dress is not unlike the tenacity of derangement to its favorite ideas.

¹⁵ Depositions of several, 4 Ch. 130—4. Charmette adds a copy of the alleged abjuration, 135—6.

consented afterwards to put on female attire¹⁶; but she soon repented of her acquiescence, and resumed her male dress. This change of mind, obviously the vacillations of its unsoundness, defeated the hopes of the humane persons who were trying to save her life. The earl of Warwick is mentioned as rejoicing in her obstinacy, and exclaimed, "She is taken¹⁷." Others were greatly grieved. She was asked why she would persist in wearing a man's attire; she merely answered, that she preferred it to the dress of her sex. Being further urged, she said that it was more suitable to her, while she was guarded by men¹⁸.

The day at length arrived on which she was to suffer. It was announced to her in the morning, that she was to be burnt that day. She cried out most piteously on hearing it, wrung her hands, and tore her hair. "Am I to be treated so horribly and so cruelly? Must my body, which has always been wholly pure, be consumed to-day to ashes? I would rather be beheaded seven times than be burnt! O, I appeal to God, the Great Judge, for all the wrongs and injuries they have done to me¹⁹!" But recovering herself, she resumed her usual piety and resignation, and made her confession. She received the sacrament very devoutly, shedding tears profusely, and with an inexpressible humility. When the prelate of Beauvais, one of her severest enemies, entered, she said to him, "Bishop! I die through you; and I appeal against you before God." Seeing Peter Morice, an ecclesiastic, who had befriended her, she exclaimed, "Ah, monk Peter! where shall I be to-day?" "Have you not good hope in the Lord?" he answered. "Yes," was her reply; "If God help me, I shall be in Paradise²⁰."

Her cruel
execution,
30 May,
1431.

She was dressed in female habiliments, and at nine in the morning was taken on a car, with her confessor, and guarded by

800

¹⁶ 4 Ch. 147.

¹⁷ So Isembard deposed, 4 Ch. 160.

¹⁸ 4 Ch. 161.

¹⁹ Dép. du frere Toutmouille, 4 Ch. 160 i.

²⁰ Several Depositions, 183—5.

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800 men, armed with axes, swords, and lances, was carried to the market-place of Rouen. Her tears, and lamentations, and prayers, all the way, melted the spectators. Arrived at the fatal spot, she cried out, "Rouen! Rouen! must I die here?" She was placed on a scaffold, with the wood that was to consume her. A vast multitude filled the place. The cardinal bishop of Winchester was one of the prelates that attended. A doctor in theology made a sermon to her and the people; she heard him patiently. When he had done, she fell on her knees, and uttered such fervent prayers to God and her saints, and asked for those of the spectators so earnestly, that the English themselves, and the cardinal, wept profusely, and pitied her; but none stepped forward to release her. A vindictive and defamatory address was read to her, that could only embitter her last moments. She asked, in return, but for a cross. An Englishman present immediately made one from the end of a stick, and gave it to her. She took it, kissed, and put it into her bosom, and petitioned to have one from the church, that she might look on it till she expired. It was brought, and she eagerly and long embraced it; but her persecutors became impatient, and exclaimed, "Do you mean, priest! to make us dine here?" The clergy had before given her up to the secular power, and the fire was now ordered to be applied. "Execute your office," was the last command; but two serjeants approached to draw her from the scaffold. She saluted them, and came down. Men-at-arms then seized her, and dragged her back with great fury to the stake. She made piteous outcries; invoked her Saviour, and moaned, "Rouen! Rouen! will you be my last abode?" Several persons, unable to support the sight, quitted the place. The degrading mitre of the inquisition was placed on her head, having the conspicuous words "Heretic; Relapse; Apostate; Idolater"²¹. She was

²¹ On a board, facing the scaffold, were these words: 'Joan, who calls herself La Pucelle; mischievous liar; abuser of the people; witch; superstitious; blasphemer;

miscreant; boaster; idolater; cruel; profligate; invoker of devils; scismatic; and heretic.' Regist. du Parlement, V. 15.

was tied to a stake; the faggots were set on fire; she cried with a loud voice, as she felt the flames, "O Jesus!" Seeing her friendly friar in danger from the heat, she bade him retire, but to hold up the cross to her till she was dead. She refused to deny the revelations she believed she had received. She declared her conviction, that she had done nothing but by the divine orders, and that her voices were not illusions. The scaffold being plaistered, the flames advanced slowly, though the executioner, in pity, wished to hasten their operation, that he might shorten her sufferings. As the fire and smoke distressed her, she called out for holy water. She implored fervently the divine assistance; calling on her saints; at times shrieking; at times groaning and praying. At last her head was seen to fall on one side; and the name of her Saviour, pronounced with the loud voice of agony, was the last word she was heard to utter²².

So perished, after a year's imprisonment, and by this inhuman death, this patriotic and heroic woman, or rather girl; for she was scarcely twenty when she expired. No deliverer of a country has appeared, who has merited a more liberal fame, or atchieved the great enterprize amid difficulties more arduous, or with a purer disinterestedness, than this noble-minded female. We cannot but regret that Winchester, and other nobles and gentlemen of England, could have witnessed her execution²³. The belief that she was a devilish agent, may account for, but cannot justify, the

²² All these facts are taken from the depositions of the witnesses, collected by M. des Charmettes, V. 4, p. 187--207. Her ashes, and the bones which the fire had not consumed of her body, cardinal Beaufort had thrown into the Seine, to prevent superstitious uses of them. Ib. 209. Several Englishmen, who witnessed her end, declared she must have been a good woman. The emotions of those that were more friendly to her were very great. It was a favorite belief, that she went straight to Paradise. Ib. 210—3.

²³ One person deposed, that some English-

men laughed as she was burning, V. 3, p. 205. We will hope that this was the calumny of anger. An English man-at-arms, who had greatly hated her, and had sworn to put a faggot on her pile, was so affected at hearing her last cry, that he fainted, and was carried away to a tavern. Afterwards he expressed strongly his regret for what he had done, and even fancied that, as she died, he saw a white dove issuing from the flames, p. 206. The feelings of many were so excited, as to have had strange imaginations.

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I.

1431.

the inhumanity. Her sanction of Franquet's death may have also hardened the hearts of many against her; and as the administration and church establishment of England could, in the same reign, burn at home, so unpityingly, priests and tradesmen, for their religious tenets, it is not likely that they would be more compassionate to an enemy, who had produced to them such disasters²⁴. The English government issued two papers, to justify what it had done²⁵; but they could not abate the general sympathy for her. Wherever the judges, and they who took part in her death, were seen, the people pointed them out with their fingers, and loaded them with execrations²⁶. It is easy to commit crime; its disgrace is indelible.

That Joan was an extraordinary phenomenon of human nature, is palpable to every one. But it is in the course of things, that in uncommon emergencies, uncommon agents should arise. The human mind, possessing powers which, as yet, seem unlimited, is capable of being excited to a degree, and to an elevation, at present

²⁴ Her death and behaviour at the stake dispossessed many of their prejudices against her. The king of England's secretary returned from it sad and mourning. He lamented greatly what he had seen done to her, and said, 'We are all lost. A holy person has been burnt; but her soul is in the hands of God.' One of her prosecutors felt such compunction, that for a month he was always weeping and stupified. *Charm.* 4, p. 111. One of the judge assessors declared the whole proceedings to be unjust; and that those who had deemed her an heretic for wearing men's clothes, ought to be punished as she was. From him we also learn, that many of those who had been present at her trial were very indignant at it, and thought the execution both rigorous and wicked; and that the common opinion was, that she had been badly judged. *Ib.* 215. No unprejudiced person could have thought otherwise.

²⁵ The first, in Latin, dated Rouen, 8 June 1431, is a declamation against false prophets; and a coloured statement of her conduct, and

of the proceedings against her. The second, in French, and meant for general circulation, issued 20 days afterwards, contains an elaborate recapitulation of the principal facts concerning her, so selected and expressed, as to excite the public feeling, as far as possible against her. It is ably, but not faithfully, done, some things are mis-stated in order to prejudice her. See it in *des Charm.* V. 4, p. 226—235.

²⁶ The notary Boys Guillaume, thus deposed. *Ib.* p. 237. The bishop of Beauvais, thought it necessary to procure letters of protection and indemnity from Henry, dated 12 June, forbidding all persons to sue or molest him. *Ib.* p. 238. Charles VII. deposed him. Henry then made him bishop of Li-neux. He died suddenly, as his barber was cutting his beard, in 1442. *Ib.* p. 241. *Des Charmettes* notices the peculiar deaths of others, who had assisted to produce her execution, p. 241—4. Her father and eldest brother died of grief at hearing of it. *Rich. Hist. Man. du Pucelle.*

present indefinite. The soul being alike in all, high birth or education is not essential to its susceptibilities. The greatest intellects have frequently emerged from the peasant's hut. Every station is capable of being acted upon by the powerful impulses which, at intervals, affect society, and to incalculable consequences. We cannot beforehand conceive the direction an impressed mind may take, nor the exertions to which it may be stimulated. From the most exalted disdain of self-considerations, to the keenest sensibility and endurance in behalf of another; from the tenderest touch of human sympathy, to the sublimest wing of godlike aspiration; the soul may be influenced to achieve or attempt all that is possible on earth, and to aim at all that is accessible in heaven. Nothing is too immense for its desire, too lofty for its hope, or too remote for its pursuit. What it has attained, bears no proportion to what is attainable, and to what it feels to be so, and to what it will therefore be ever striving to possess. Hence human wonders may always be expected in wonderful conjunctures. Exigencies have repeatedly set the inflammable soul of genius on fire; and the world has been astonished by its blaze. The comets of life have been as numerous as those of the atmosphere; but the memory of many has perished, for want of the record; or has vanished among the nebulosities of ancient mythology. As one of the greatest of these temporary phenomena, Joan will never be forgotten, even by ourselves; for though she rescued and exalted France to our humiliation, yet she did nothing to diminish the solid greatness of our country. This has advanced with steady progress ever since; and we may therefore now give her, liberally, the acclamation and the tear which our alarmed forefathers, in the irritation of immediate hostility, too harshly denied her²⁷.

²⁷ M. L' Averdy, has made an extensive "revisien du proces de Jeanne d' Arc, in the *Notices des MSS. de la Biblioth. du Roi*, V. 3, p. 247. M. des Charmettes, has inserted a copious extract from it, with his own remarks, in his 15th book, V. 4, p. 327—411, and closes his work with his considerations on the

different systems that have been framed to account for her. *Ib.* 411—466. He ends with saying, that if he be asked for his own opinion he will only answer "Je suis Français; je suis chretien," p. 466. This is rather oracular, than intelligible.

HISTORY OF ENGLAND.

CHAP. X.

GOVERNMENT IN ENGLAND UNTIL THE CONGRESS AT ARRAS.

BOOK I.

1429.

FROM the death of Henry V. a division existed in the English cabinet, which, at first, took the shape of personal conflict, and seemed to be rather an ambitious dispute between the duke of Gloucester and his uncle the cardinal Winchester, for power and pre-eminence, than what it grew to be, a conflict of two great public interests and feelings, separating at last into hostility, and menacing a perilous collision.

At the accession of Henry VI. Gloucester, from his affinity to the crown, claimed, as of right, his elder brother being in France, the governance of the land during the king's minority. The house of lords, apparently under the advice of Winchester, directed searches into precedents; and at length, for the sake of peace, avoiding all titles that would confer real power, appointed him to be Protector and Defender¹. They considered these names to import personal duties of defending the land, but not to convey any legal authority.

Thus wisely guarding against the evil of usurpation, the actual government was vested in the council of regency, which has been
already

¹ Parl. Rolls, V. 4, p. 326.

already noticed²; and Gloucester, to his personal mortification, but with the approbation of the country, found himself in a state of shewy dignity, that was purposely kept distinct from all dangerous power. He acquiesced, though repiningly; and contemplated Winchester rather as his political watchman than his friendly kinsman; while the bishop, zealous for the young king, his great nephew, and for the interests of his order, and suspicious of Gloucester's unsatisfied and visibly ambitious spirit, became the chief leader in the council, the parliament, and the metropolis, of all that thwarted the duke³.

In the council of government, the protector had no permanent preponderance; and the decline of his influence appears in the diminution of his salary as protector. This was reduced, year after year, from 8,000 marks to 6,000, then to 5,000, and afterwards to 4,000⁴. But the decisive triumph over him was obtained by Winchester in 1429, when he procured the king's coronation, though but eight years old, and induced the parliament to declare, that the name of protector should then cease. Gloucester struggled in vain against his deposition; the rival interest prevailed. He made a protest, that his resignation should be no prejudice to the right of his brother the duke of Bedford⁵; but he was forced to submit to the unpleasing degradation. A council was formed to conduct the government, of which he was permitted to be one; but he was forbidden to promise any suitor more, than that his petition should be seen by the council; and if he or Bedford should differ from the majority, the subject was only allowed to be deferred, with a nominal tribute of respect, till the next day, and then to be decided by numbers⁶. Instead of guiding the administration, he was humbled into one of its train⁷.

Protectorate
ended, 1429.

The

² See before p. 8.

³ On their public differences. See before p. 20—3.

⁴ Parl. Rolls, V. 4, p. 425.

⁵ Ib. 337.

⁶ Ib. 338.

⁷ The Lords of the Council whose names are to these articles, shew of whom the Regency consisted:

Gloucester,	Earl Warwick,
Winchester,	— Stafford,
Archb. Canterbury,	Lewis Robessart,
	Archbp.

BOOK

I.

1429.

Henry
crowned at
Westminster,
6 Nov. 1429.

The king was crowned with the accustomed pomp⁸, and from this time the cardinal obtained the ascendancy in the cabinet; and the speech of the archiepiscopal chancellor to the parliament expressed the party which predominated in the government, and the spirit with which it was meant to be conducted. It complained strongly of infidelity, and of the obstinacy of errors and heresies; it declared, that pertinacity and perversity menaced; that unbelief and error were shooting strongly forth; and that heresies were multiplying in England in an unusual degree⁹. The cardinal's prevailing influence, or that of the church, which he headed

Archbp. York, R. Cromwell,
Bish. London, J. le Scrop,
— Ely, W. Hungerford, Tr.
— Bath & Wells, J. Tiptoft. Ib. 344.
Duke of Norfolk,

⁸ On 6 Nov. 1429. The ancient chronicler commemorates the dainties of the coronation banquet:

1st COURSE:

Frumentie with venison.
Viand royal planted losinges of gold.
Boar heads in castles of gold and armed.
Beef with mutton boiled.
Capon stewed.
Cygnet roasted.
Heron roasted.
Great pike or luce.

A red leech, with lions corvin therein.
Custard royal, with a leopard of gold sitting therein and holding a fleur de lis.
Fritter of sun fashion, with a fleur de lis therein.

A sotiltie of St. Edward, and St. Lewis, armed with their coat armor, holding between them a figure like king Henry; standing also in his coat armor, with a ballad under their feet.

2d COURSE:

Viande black barred with gold.
Jelly, pastie written and noted with Te Deum laudamus.
Pig endored.
Crane roasted.

Bittern. Conies. Partridge.
Peacock enhakill.
Great Breme.

A white leche planted with a red antelope, with a crown about his neck with a chain of gold.

Flampaine powdered with leopards and fleur de lis of gold.

A fritter garnished with a leopard's head and two ostrich feathers.

A sotiltie: an emperor and a king arrayed in mantles of garter, Sigismund and Henry V; and a figure like Henry VI, kneeling before them with a ballad against the Lollards.

3d COURSE:

Quinces in compost.
Blaund sure powdered with quarter foiles gilt.

Venison. Egrettes. Curlewe.

Cock and Partridge. Plover.

Quails. Snipes. Great birds. Larks.

Carp. Crabs.

Leche of three colours.

A baked meat like a shield quartered red and white, set with lozenges gilt and flowers of borage.

A fritter crisped.

A sotiltie of our lady sitting with her child in her lap and holding a crown in her hand; St. George and St. Denis kneeling on either side presenting to her king Henry with a ballad in his hand. Fab. 419.

⁹ Ib. p. 335.

headed, was manifested by an enactment, that although no one who had been raised to the cardinal dignity had, after that, remained counsellor to the king, yet that he should be permitted to continue in the cabinet¹⁰.

CHAP.
X.

The house of Lancaster having been greatly indebted to the clergy for its revolutionary elevation to the throne, had, under Henry IV. the founder of its royal dynasty, and still more under Henry V. distinguished itself for its severe hostility to that reforming spirit, which, from the reign of Edward I. had been annoying and menacing the ecclesiastical establishments. This conflict will be described in some subsequent pages; but it may be here remarked, that a part of all classes of the people had now become desirous of important reformatations in the church. Hence the more the Lancastrian princes identified themselves with all that was objected to in the sacerdotal system, the greater opposition to their administration, began to pervade every rank of English society. The violence used to repress lollardy but deepened and extended the spirit of innovation, and the conviction of its necessity; and the more firmly the government upheld the church, the more rapidly the public discontent extended itself to both. The sympathies of the heart, as persecution increased, began to convert heresy into disloyalty; and a discerning eye might have seen, at the time of Henry the Sixth's accession, many prognostics of that political explosion which shook him from the throne; and which a disinterested sagacity, applying its healing counsels, and disarming compromises with timely prudence, might have abated or prevented.

But no parties become dangerous till they can find leaders distinguished

¹⁰ Parl. Rolls, V. 4, p. 338. The signatures to two orders of the Regency in 1430, shew how much the clergy preponderated in the cabinet.

25 Feb. 1430:

H. Gloucester,	P. Ely,
H. Canterbury,	J. Bath and Wells,
J. York, Chancellor,	J. Duke Norfolk,

W. London,

1 March 1430.

Gloucester,

Canterb,

York, Chanc.

London,

R. E. Warwick,

Cromwell. Rym. 450.

Bath and Wells,

Huntingdon,

Hungerford, Treasurer.

Ib. 451.

BOOK

I.

1430.

distinguished for rank or popularity; and as none such arose in the first part of this reign, the new feelings and opinions seemed but the heresies of individuals, offensive to the church, yet not injurious to the state. But the church being identified with the state under the Lancastrian dynasty, and resenting the hostile criticisms, the administration, of which the cardinal, with the prelate of York, took the lead, reproached and resisted all innovations; and, adopting an ecclesiastical feeling and tendency, became pledged into an increasing hostility against the new religious spirit, the desired reformatations, and the wanted improvement of the day. The great laity were not satisfied with these measures; they were excluded by the cabinet churchmen, from all important councils; and such indications of their dissatisfaction appeared, that one of the articles made by the council lords was pointed against the turbulent retainers of the nobility, mentioning them with the most obnoxious epithets¹¹.

The French council of government at Paris recommended, after the reverses produced by the Maid of Orleans, that Henry should be crowned in person, the king of France¹². It being determined by the regency that this should be done, the cardinal consented to accompany him, "and do the good he may, if so be that the lords and captains, and others that go at this time also over with the king, will be of good rule and governance, and eschew divisions, and taking parties one against another, by dissention, or by their own authority, or else he protested he would come home, and report the cause of his departing¹³;" a condition which implies the great lay opposition with which he was encountering.

Henry lands
in France,
1430, 23d
April.

On St. George's day, Henry VI. landed at Calais¹⁴, nine years old, to receive what proved to be the unserviceable honor of his French coronation.

¹¹ 'No lord shall maintain pillours, robours, oppressours of the people, mansleers, felons, outelawes, ravishers, unlawful hunters, or other misdoers.' Parl. 4, 344. The subsequent arraignment of Winchester by Gloucester, complains strongly of him and the

archbishop's usurping the command of the administration. See the next chapter.

¹² Rymer Fed. 10, p. 432.

¹³ Ib. p. 456.

¹⁴ 6 Monstr. 348. Fab. 420.

coronation. Gloucester was made the keeper of the kingdom, and the king's lieutenant of England, in his absence¹⁵. The English government wished his visit to France to be attended with all the splendor and efficacy of a powerful military force; but the exploits of the Maiden had so unnerved the minds of the English gentry, that it was found necessary at Canterbury, on the 3d of May, from the fewness of the succors that arrived, to issue a royal proclamation, complaining that those captains and soldiers, who had been retained to attend the king, were making great delay, to his peril; and were tergiversating, from the terror of the Maiden's enchantments. It commanded them to assemble immediately, at Sandwich and Dover, in order to be conveyed to France¹⁶.

But so inefficacious were menaces or intreaties, during the mental influence of this superstitious panic, that Henry continued at Calais, without advancing farther. He had remained there a month, when the unexpected news arrived, that the all-dreaded Maiden was captured at Compeigne, on the 23d of May. But, although a prisoner, this poor girl, not yet nineteen, still so much alarmed our self-tormenting countrymen, that, even above six months afterwards, the duke of Gloucester, on the 12th of December, was compelled to address letters patent to the sheriffs of the southern counties, and of London, commanding them to arrest the soldiers whom the "terrifyings" of the Pucelle had actuated to abandon their duties¹⁷. It was not until November that Henry ventured to Paris; and on the next month, to be crowned.

His entry into the French metropolis was picturesque and stately, according to the taste of the day. The provost and burghers of Paris met him, half way between that city and St. Denis, in their crimson satin doublets and blue hoods, with many inhabitants in scarlet. Persons armed, on horseback, representing the nine ancient worthies,

His entrance
into Paris,
and corona-
tion, 17th
Dec. 1430.

¹⁵ The grant is dated 20 April 1430. Rymer, p. 458.

¹⁶ Rym. p. 459.

¹⁷ 'Quos terriculamenta puellæ animaverant.' Rym. p. 472.

BOOK

I.

1430.

worthies, saluted him; and the lords of the French parliament followed them, in flowing robes of vermillion. On his entering at the gate of St. Denis, three large crimson hearts, typical of the affections of the metropolis, were presented to him; and as he handled them, out of the first flew two doves; from the second, small birds sprang up about him, to startle and amuse his little majesty; and the third disclosed violets and flowers, which were thrown over the lords who accompanied him. An azure canopy, sprinkled with fleurs-de-lis, was carried over him through the city. At a little bridge appeared a small forest, with three savages struggling with a woman in it, till he passed. A fountain of hippocras wine, and three mermaids swimming in it, were the next delighting spectacles; and beyond them, pageants, acting in dumb show, the nativity, the adoration of the magi, the massacre of the innocents, and an aged sower, scattering his good seed, claimed the favoring attention; but the legendary history of St. Denis, over his gate, was most admired by the English. The next street was turned into a forest. Dogs and huntsmen chased a stag, and as the king approached, the well-taught animal took refuge under the royal horse, and his life was saved¹⁸.

On the 17th of December, the ceremony of the coronation was performed in the church of Notre Dame, more in the English than French manner. During the dinner, four pageants were introduced: the Virgin Mary, with an infant king crowned by her side; a great fleur-de-lis, surmounted with a crown of gold; a lady and a peacock; and a lady with a swan; while various instruments performed the best music they knew. A gallant tournament was held the next day, with prizes for the best tilters; and these festivities, more grateful to the fancy of our ancestors than

¹⁸ 7 Monstrelet, 45—8. Hall remarks on the disturbance, given to this festivity by Winchester's ambition. As he 'would have no man to him equal, he commanded the duke of Bedford to leave off the name of regent, during the time the king was in

France. The duke took such a secret displeasure with this doing, that he never after favored the cardinal, but repugned and disdained at all things, that he did, or devised.' p. 161, 2.

than our own, being over, Henry, after a few days, returned to Rouen to pass his Christmas¹⁹; and afterwards remained some time at Calais. The events of the war gave no great splendor to the royal solemnity he had been celebrating. The famous Barbazan in this month, attacked and defeated an united army of English and Burgundians, near Chalons²⁰; but if he obtained this success, he was afterwards defeated and taken prisoner, at Bar, by the duke of Burgundy²¹.

Landing at Dover, the king, still a child, moved gradually to the metropolis. At Barham Downs, the gentlemen of Kent met him in red hoods, and accompanied him to Blackheath. There the lord mayor and corporation received him; the citizens clad in white, with the insignia of their trades embroidered on their sleeves, and the aldermen in scarlet. All these rode before him to London bridge, where a mighty giant was standing with his sword ready drawn, and his speech ready written, defying the king's enemies. At the drawbridge, beyond the first gate, was seen a goodly tower, richly apparelled in silk and cloth of arras, out of which suddenly emerged three ladies, in gold and silk, with coronets on their heads, to assure Henry, in tolerable rhyme, that they were dames Nature, Grace, and Fortune, and that they came to give him all their gifts. Seven virgins in white stood on their right hand, in bawdricks of blue; and seven more on their left, in garments powdered with stars of gold. The first seven presented him with (at least the words of) sapience, intelligence, good counsel, strength, cunning, pity, and dread of God; the others gave him

Henry re-
turns to
England,
9 Feb. 1431.

¹⁹ 7 Monst. 50, 1. Fab. 422, 3. A French knight on 3 February made a bold attempt to take Rouen, by surprize. Mon. p. 59. But this was after the king had left it for Calais. In this last town he remained a season before he embarked for England, and he landed at Dover, 9 February. Fab. 423. So that he could not have been at Rouen on the 3d.

²⁰ A servant of a brother of La-Hire that

was in the battle, described it to Jean Chartier as a complete victory over the English, and he so states it in his history of Cha. VII. 3 Charm. 173—6. See Fab. 421.

²¹ Fab. 422. 'For whose ransom (with another captain) the duke had yelden to hym the vale of Cassile in Flanders.' Ib. Sain-trailles had before fallen at Beale Mount in a battle against the earl of Arundel. Ib.

BOOK

I.

1431.

him the seven gifts of grace, in their best verses²², when all saluting him, began a roundelay, with what the old admiring chronicler is pleased to call "an heavenly melody and song²³." Softly he rode on, till he was stopped at Cornhill by a curious tabernacle, in which dame Sapience was seen, with her pupils studying about her, Grammar, Logic, Rhetoric, Music, Arithmetic, Geometry, and Astronomy. On the conduit at Cornhill, he beheld a child of wonderful beauty, dressed like a king, accompanied by lady Mercy and lady Truth. Before this imaged sovereign were two judges, and eight serjeants of the coif. Henry heard dame Cleanness address him, and rode on at a quicker pace to the conduit at Cheap. There flowed the wells of Mercy, Grace, and Pity, with a lady at each, who rewarded every one that asked for a taste of these virtues, with a draught of good wine. Verdant trees, bearing oranges, almonds, olives, pomegranates, dates, quinces, peaches, and many other fruits, adorned this spot, which was meant to represent paradise. Two patriarchs here prayed and preached to him in verse; and the shows and lectures closed at St. Paul's gate with a pageantry, which, in attempting its highest sublimity, became little else than puerile impiety. What was meant to be a celestial throne, with the Trinity upon it, surrounded by angels playing and singing upon all instruments of music then in use, was there exhibited; from which two stanzas were addressed to the king, as if from the mouth of the paternal Deity. The absurdities of human pomp, flattery, and irreverent fancy, to a boy of ten years old, could go no higher; and he was perhaps

²² They were :

' God thee endowe with crowne of glorie;
And with the scepter of clenenesse and pitie;
And with a swearde of might and victorie;
And with a mantell of prudence clad thou bee:
A shield of faith, for to defende thee.
An helme of health, wrought to thyne encrease,
Girte with a girdell, of love and parfite peace.'

Fab. 424.

²³ ' Sovereigne lorde! welcome to our citie
Welcome our joy! and our hartes pleasaunce
Welcome our gladnesse! welcome our suf-
fisaunce
Welcome! welcome! right welcome mought
ye bee
Singyng before thy royal majesty,
We say with heart; without en variance
Sovereigne Lorde! now welcome out of
France!'

Fab. 424.

perhaps happy, after so much compliment and lecturing, to be here conveyed into St. Paul's, to have a little rest, during its service, before he was conducted, in further state, to his palace²⁴. There is a nothingness in pomp, when reason recalls it to our quiet recollection, which surprizes us that we could have enjoyed it; and yet we crowd to gaze at it, and to contribute to it, as if it merited our applause, and were an useful element of human felicity. It is manhood amusing itself with the drama and puppets of the child.

The second ballad of the coronation dinner was directed to applaud the emperor Sigismund and Henry V. for their persecutions of heresy²⁵; and it was soon followed by the burning of a heretic²⁶, and, in the next year, another²⁷. During the administration in which the cardinal and his friends predominated, these arrests, imprisonments, and burnings, were continued²⁸. The pope called vigorously for a crusade against the Bohemian reformers²⁹; and the cardinal ostentatiously affected to begin it; but how easily he abandoned his own attempt, to favor other purposes, has been already noticed³⁰. To avert the papal enmity at this mutation of purpose, it was declared, under the sign manual, that as it was not the king's intention to restrain his subjects from going to Bohemia in

²⁴ Fab. 423—7.

²⁵ Against miscreantes, the emperoure
Sigismunde,

Hath shewed his might, which is imperiall:
And Henry the fite, a noble knight, was
founde

For Christe his cause in actes martiall;
Cherished the church; to Lollers gave a fall;
Giving example to kynges that succede,
And to their braunche here, in especiall,
While he doeth reigne, to love God and drede.

Fab. 420.

Sigismund was the Emperor who had sanctioned the burning of Huss, and Henry V. had sacrificed his friend Oldcastle to the papal church, and had that kind of heart which could let him wait, and see a Lollard perish in the flames. Two such characters selected

for a coronation dinner was meant to be a threatening sermon to all present.

²⁶ In the whiche pastyme, that is to meane, the 23 daie of January an heretike was brent in Smithfelde. Fab. 421.

²⁷ Sir Thomas Bagley, vicar of Maunder in Essex, degraded and burnt in Smithfield, Fab. 422.

²⁸ See 1. Wilkins, Concil. 433 515, and the references on this subject hereafter.

²⁹ In 1428, the pope had issued a bull complaining of the *torrents* of heretics in Bohemia. J. Wilk. Con. 492. And his nuncio stated this fact in the council of the prelates at Canterbury. Ib. p. 493. Martin V. issued a bull to extirpate them, and to collect money for this purpose. Ib. 511.

³⁰ See before p. 24, 25.

BOOK
I.

in displeasure or contempt of the pope, security would be given for the repayment of the whole sum, to which the wages of this army should amount³¹.

The severities of the ecclesiastical statesmen, only increased the number and the activity of their haters and opponents. No pretext or power can reconcile man to persecution. The free-thinking individual sees in the violence, but new evidence of its injustice; and derives from his own magnanimity of resistance, and from his belief of a still superior approbation, a consolation for his sufferings which death can neither end nor take away. Persecution may procrastinate what it dislikes, but ensures its occurrence. It soon replaces the individuals it removes: It either defeats its own purposes, or makes their attainment the punishment of its supporters. It is used, less from a dependance upon its efficacy, than because it gratifies that love of vengeance, which accompanies the irritation of endangered interests. Few own or applaud the vindictive feelings they obey. They rise gradually in the soul, till the natural sympathy that would prospectively abhor them, is destroyed by their indulgence; and hence, even polished and otherwise virtuous minds, have shewn themselves to be susceptible of this brutal degradation. Violence has often driven heresy into rebellion, and made both seem virtues.

This was experienced in England, about Easter 1430. Notwithstanding the imprisonments and executed sentences of the establishment, the heretical critics were, this year, roused to such activity, as to diffuse their adherents into various parts, exhorting the people to rise against the cloistered bodies and destroy their edifices. At Abingdon they burst into actual insurrection, chose a captain and attacked the monastery³². The duke of Gloucester was

³¹ Rymer, 10, p. 425.

³² Walsingham in his MS. History, says 'Incipit antiqua heresis, sub modio in cordibus multorum fautorum absconsa, in palam ascendere; et suos nuncios, dispersim in diversa loca destmare, exhortando plebem, primo, in ecclesiasticas personas insurgere, et loca sua,

licet consecrata, absque remedio, penitus de terra delere.' Sloane MS. 1776. Hall says, that two of their articles were, that priests should have no possessions; and that all things, by the order of charity, among christian people, should be in common, p. 166.

was directed by the regency to suppress them, and his military powers soon dispersed them, and hanged their leader, and imprisoned many³³. It was thought necessary to place their chief-tain's head on London bridge. Similar insurgents or co-operators were executed in other counties³⁴. The angry dispositions that were conspiring for the same objects, were intimidated for the moment; but the indignant spirit that felt itself oppressed, took its fatal revenge at a future opportunity.

The cardinal, and Kempe the archbishop of York, continued their preponderance in the cabinet. The speeches delivered for the crown to Parliament, in the two following years, display the government's desire, or determination, for ecclesiastical severities under their influence, and betray the ill effects it was working in the country. During the chancellor's illness in 1431, Dr. Lyndewoode complained, that peace and unity were broken by whisperers and double tongues disseminating, daily, false and idle things, by oppressors of the poor, and by maintainers of litigation; that great evils were accruing to churchmen and to the king's lieges, and that many more were to be dreaded, if no remedy were applied. Parliament had therefore been called to obviate these inconveniences, to cherish unity, and to punish all who were impugning it³⁵. This unity was a tranquil submission both to church and state. But in the next year, the new chancellor, the bishop of Bath and Wells, declaimed in louder terms against the unbelieving, against those who censured and rebelled against the divine law; who denied the faith; despised the sacraments, and labored to destroy the ministers of God and the church. He declared that enemies were besieging them with ambushes on all sides, and would grievously disturb both the king and the kingdom³⁶.

The

³³ Fabian says of their leader, 'he confessed to have wrought much sorowe against priestes, so that he would have made their heads as cheap as sheeps heads,'—'and the same season was taken many of his complices which were sent unto divers prisons,' p. 422.

³⁴ 'The other of his fautours were put in execution in *divers* places and *countries* to the terror of others.' Fab. 422.

³⁵ Parl. Rolls, 4, p. 367.

³⁶ Ib. 388.

The commons now began to exhibit the popular feeling, by thwarting the government and dissenting from the measures of the lords. Gloucester, excluded from all weight in the cabinet, and sympathising with the ancient nobility, on their neglect by the government, became more favourable to the wishes of the discontented. His love of literature made him the Mæcenæ of the day; and to be the patron and reader of the productions of the emerging mind of the country, necessarily liberalized and animated his own. What reason and knowledge might have been insufficient to have completed, his personal resentment against Winchester and his ministry supplied. To reform the church, was to humble his opponent; to resist the abuses of government, was to lessen that rival's power. Hence he came publicly forward this year, in answer to the chancellor's representations, to state that parliament would be more effectual, if the lords spiritual and temporal could be unanimous and concordant with the commons³⁷.

This was obviously a recommendation to the upper house to concur with the measures of the other. He went on to assert, that from his birth he was intitled to be the principal counsellor of the king, and yet had submitted to act only by the advice and assent of the rest of the council. He therefore called upon the peers to give him their assistance³⁸. The lords cautiously answered, that they would concur with him, when he specially requested it, so far as from reverence to God (that is to the church) and the advantage of the king and kingdom they should be able³⁹. The cardinal felt this to be a public arraignment of his administration, and soon appeared personally in parliament to repel the attack. He said, that by the king's licence obtained at Calais, he was going to the Roman court; but while in Flanders, had heard that he had been accused of treason in England; and anxious to keep his fame unhurt more than his earthly goods, he had returned to meet the charge, which he declared that he was ready fully to answer.

³⁷ P. Rolls, p. 389.³⁸ Ib.³⁹ Ib.

answer⁴⁰. A deliberation ensued, at the end of which he was assured that no one had accused him of treason, and that the king considered him to be faithful. His plate and jewels had been arrested at Sandwich, as the royal property. He agreed to give 6,000*l.* for their release, on the condition that it should be returned to him, if within six years the king's title to the effects should not be proved. An attempt having been made to tax the church, he procured that measure to be deferred on allegations of its poverty, and undertaking to lend the exchequer six thousand pounds more⁴¹.

A council at Basle having been called as the successor or substitute for that of Constance, many English prelates this year applied for the king's leave to attend it. But as they were chiefly the friends of the cardinal, and as he himself was to be of the number⁴², we may infer that their object was not favorable to religious liberty. The large sum which he was permitted to carry with him 'without search,' imply the uses to which it was intended to be subservient⁴³.

In 1433, the disapprobation of the measures of the cardinal's administration, became so visible, that the duke of Bedford was requested by the commons to stay in England and take the lead of the government. He acquiesced, but desired to know what salary would be assigned. A general silence prevailed. Hearing no answer, he mentioned the allowances which his brother had received, but declared that he should be content with 1,000*l.* a year, in England⁴⁴. This liberal conduct could only meet applause; but in the same parliament, a fact, boding ill to the future peace of the country, was announced by the treasurer, Ralph Cromwell,

⁴⁰ P. Rolls, p. 390.

⁴¹ Ib. 392.

⁴² Among others, besides the cardinal, were the bishop of Rochester, as the king's ambassador; the archbishop of York; the bishops of Salisbury, London, Bangor, and Carlisle; the abbots of Glastonbury and St. Albans, and the dean of Bourdeaux. 10 Rym. 531—550.

⁴³ This was 20,000*l.* while York was to take out but 2,000*l.*; Salisbury and London 1,000*l.*; Carlisle 550*l.*; the abbot Glast. 500*l.*; St. Albans 400*l.*; Bangor 400 marcs, and the dean 120*l.* Rym. ib.

⁴⁴ Parl. Rolls, 4, p. 423—5.]

BOOK

I.

1433.

Cromwell, in his petition, which stated that the revenues of government fell short of its expence by 35,000*l.* a year; a truth that neither lords nor commons could credit, and therefore he prayed them to inspect his accounts⁴⁵.

This unwelcome circumstance was accompanied with an earnest representation from this minister, to the king in parliament, that having not long before, by the advice of Gloucester and Bedford, been appointed treasurer of England, he had exhibited how greatly the crown was then indebted to the people; how inadequate the revenues of the land were to the charges, and that the debt must increase. Daily warrants for payments were brought unto him, by lords and others, more than equal to the whole revenues, if they had not been assigned before. But the truth was, that all the income had become anticipated, and appropriated for the next two years. If he paid any new warrant he must leave the royal houshold, chamber, wardrobe, and works, unserved; and yet, if he refused to discharge them, he incurred great indignation from the lords, and great slander and enmity of other people⁴⁶. Creditors to the amount of 100,000*l.* are mentioned in two following years⁴⁷; and in 1442, their further debt is stated at double this amount⁴⁸. So that financial deficiencies became one of the causes of evil in this disturbed reign. The crown borrowed and was unable to repay⁴⁹, and could not satisfy the ordinary charges of the government; new taxes were necessarily imposed, and the public murmured at the unusual burthen.

The question which, next to the resisting all religious reformation, was most dangerous to the popularity of the crown, the stability

⁴⁵ P. Rolls, p. 432. A curious account of the revenues and expenditure follows in the parliamentary record. 432—6.

⁴⁶ R. Parl. 439.

⁴⁷ As in 1435, p. 482, in 1437, p. 504.

⁴⁸ P. Rolls, V. 5, p. 39.

⁴⁹ Thus in the eighth year of the reign 50,000*l.* was borrowed, of which the mayor and commonalty of London lent 6,666*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.*

P. Rolls, V. 4, p. 418. At another time, in 1433, the merchants of the staple at Calais, lent 2,918*l.* 12*s.* 10*d.* to be repaid from the custom. p. 474. In 1435, three individuals advanced 8,000 marks, of which 5,000 were to be repaid from the rent of the duke of Bedford, then deceased, 1,000 from the duchy of Cornwall, and 2,000 from the king's treasury. Ib. 485.

stability of the administration, and the peace of the country, was now arising, and became every year more necessary to be decided, yet more difficult and disquieting. Should the war with France be prosecuted or discontinued? Peace was the best boon for both countries; but France, in the triumphant attitude it had acquired, would concede no terms that would satisfy the pride of the English nation, or the ambition and personal interests of the nobility and gentry, who were engaged in carrying on the war. It had been long the policy of the cardinal to terminate hostilities; for they checked his power, occasioned demands to be made on the property of the clergy, and kept the sword in the hands of the great laity, whom he wished to reduce. Hence it had been represented in 1430, that it was a great charge to the land, and oppression to the people, to keep up the great multitude of walled towns and castles that were in our possession in Normandy and France; and the king, with his council, were empowered to dismantle all such as they should deem "unbehoveful, perilous, or harmful to be kept, or to stand⁵⁰." In the next year, when the pope sent cardinals, and Spain and Scotland ambassadors, to mediate a peace between the two countries, Winchester was appointed, with Bedford and Gloucester, to treat for it⁵¹. That the cardinal had long labored to effect a treaty, was stated in December 1432, and new commissioners were empowered to negotiate⁵². The council of Basle recommended it. The duke of Orleans, still a prisoner in England, was employed to procure it⁵³; and in 1435, the archbishop of York and the earl of Suffolk went to France with the same object⁵⁴. But the main difficulty continually remained. The English government could not, with safety to itself, conclude that peace which the French would consent to. The conquest of France had become a disappearing rainbow, but it had been too brilliant an object for its temporary vision to be forgotten, or for the hope of

⁵⁰ Roll. Parl. V. 5, p. 417.⁵¹ Roll. P. 4, p. 371.⁵² Rym. 10, p. 510.⁵³ Rym. 10, 561—4.⁵⁴ Rym. 10, 613.

of its return, to be relinquished. It still remained in the imagination of the country as a matter of right and certainty, under an able administration. Bedford saw the fever that was diseasing the public mind on this subject, and endeavored in parliament to vindicate himself from the angry criticism that clamored round him⁵⁵. The cardinal dared not accomplish his own wishes. He settled no peace; but he adopted the policy of making the war linger as faintly as possible, that the popular expectations might gradually abate by time, reverses, and the absence of all exciting successes. Hence no more supplies were sent than sufficed to feed the war, without actually abandoning it; and the consequence was, that every commander complained of want of means, and called in vain for reinforcements. Warwick, York and Somerset, successively, after Bedford's death, were made governors of France; but with no other result than to see the French king gain perpetually new advantages, and to find themselves driven into Normandy, and not able to maintain that province. In 1439, the chancellor stated to the parliament, that Burgundy having, without any consultation with England, appointed a congress at Arras to treat, ambassadors from London had attended it, but only to find France so zealous for war, that as the Burgundians had withdrawn from it, the king of England must either lay down his title of king of France, or defend it in Normandy⁵⁶.

⁵⁵ Parl. 5, 435. See his statement here of his campaigns in France.

⁵⁶ R. Parl. V. 4, p. 481. As Hall's remarks, 'that while France was miserably afflicted by the war, England was not without dolour and trouble, because, daily, Englishmen, as well noble as mean personages were slain, taken or wounded, and their substance continually exacted and consumed for maintenance of the war,' p. 165. were strictly true; we may ask, Why was peace unpopular in England? He and Commes gave us the true answers; he says too justly 'neither nation would yield

or bow, the one to the other: neither yet once hear of abstinence of fighting—so much were their hearts hardened, and so princely were their stomachs.' p. 174. To this pride we may add the benefits derived by some, for Commes tells us, that 'the English lords got great fortunes out of France in their plunder, and in the ransoms of their prisoners, V. 1. That the regency of France was so profitable, that it had yielded Bedford 20,000 crowns a month. p. 63. And that Normandy had, in one year, produced to its governors 950,000 francs. p. 93.

HISTORY

OF

ENGLAND.

CHAP. XI.

CONTINUATION OF THE WAR, AND NEGOCIATIONS FOR PEACE
WITH FRANCE. THE KING'S MARRIAGE WITH MARGARET,
1435—1444.

AT the congress of Arras, the future destinies of Europe stood awhile in suspense. Besides the Burgundian and French ambassadors, the pope and the council of Basle sent two cardinals as their representatives¹; and the archbishop of York and lord Suffolk attended it on the part of England², who were joined, a month afterwards, by the cardinal Winchester³. These three ministers were the real leaders of the English cabinet. The French made them the important offer, to concede to England the possession of Guienne and Normandy, on the usual homage which former English sovereigns had done for them, and on Henry's renouncing to Charles VII. the title of the king of France⁴. If these terms had been accepted, the French kingdom would not have become the formidable state it has since appeared, but have been more like Germany, a sovereignty of great dignity, but, from the independance of its powerful members, of restricted power, more

CHAP.
XI.

1435.
July, Sept.

¹ On 2 July. Monst. 7, p. 211.

² He arrived there on 19th August. Ib. 232.

³ Ib. 215. Their commission was dated
20 June 1435. 10 Rym. p. 613.

⁴ Monst. 7, p. 233.

BOOK.

I.

1435.

more endangered than endangering. The dukedoms of Burgundy, Bretagne, Normandy, and Guienne, would have been so many French electorates, perpetually confronting and limiting their feudal head; and connecting with them a great number of small independent seigniories, oftener thwarting than aiding the king who ruled in Paris, and over the rest of France. But the pride and passions of the English nobility, infatuating their imagination, curtailed their foresight, and prevented a just appreciation, both of their own resources and power, and of the increasing means of Charles; and also made them blind to the interests and feelings of Burgundy, and deaf to his advice and representations, and insensible to the inevitable consequence. On the 6th of September, the proffered conditions were rejected, and the English left Arras⁵.

The refusal of these terms was evidence to Burgundy, that England was pursuing objects quite distinct from his interests. It would have been more safe and beneficial to him, that the king of England should be only duke of Normandy, than sovereign of France. In the latter case, he would have had a dangerous master; in the former, a constant ally. By the acceptance of the offered terms, his dominions would have had the peace they needed; by their rejection, the continuation of warfare, unless he stopped it, became indefinite. Therefore, yielding to the solicitation of the cardinals, he deemed the rupture of the general negotiation to be a sufficient justification to himself, for making a separate treaty with Charles, for his own subjects and dukedom, which soon became an effective auxiliary alliance, that ended all hope of establishing an English sovereign over France. The duke swore, before a cross of gold, that he would forget his father's death, and maintain a perpetual peace with Charles; and the duke of Bourbon and the constable, touching the same cross with their hands, begged pardon, in the king's name, of Burgundy, for the deed, who immediately granted it, as a religious duty⁶.

Burgundy's
peace with
Charles, 21
Sept. 1435.

Greatly

⁵ Monst. 7, p. 240.

⁶ Monst. 7, p. 279. He gives the full treaty,

Greatly affected by the avowed intentions of Burgundy, and by his foresight of the certain consequences, the duke of Bedford died at Rouen, between the departure of the English embassy and the signature of the Burgundian treaty⁷. When this political transition was completed, Burgundy sent letters to Henry, explaining his conduct, which the king received with tears of regret and apprehension⁸. These were not lessened by the tidings, that the duke had united his forces to those of Charles.

Bedford's
death, 13th
Sept.

This junction turned decisively the scales of war. The English took St. Denis⁹, but lost several towns in Normandy¹⁰. Henry implored aid from the Hollanders unavailing¹¹. Charles was enabled, in the next year, to recover Paris, with the assistance of its chief inhabitants, and to expel the English from its walls with disgrace¹².

The duke of York assumed the command in Normandy, striving to stem the stream of ill-fortune¹³; and Burgundy, beginning to act zealously against his ancient and now execrating friends, laid siege to Calais, miscalculating both his own ability and the English prowess.

treaty, 242—278. By the first article Charles acknowledged the death of the duke's father to have been iniquitously and treacherously perpetrated, and that if he had been of age to have judged of the consequences he would have prevented it. The king agreed to deliver up the murderers or to banish them; foundations and endowments were made for masses for his soul: Charles was to pay Burgundy 54,000 golden crowns, and to give up to him several towns and lordships, castles and counties; the duke was to do no homage to the king; and a general oblivion was to take place.

⁷ Fab. 431.

⁸ 7 Monst. 291. His account is, 'the young king Henry was so much hurt at their contents, that his eyes were filled with tears, which ran down his cheeks. The news was soon made public through London. No one who was well-bred was sparing of the grossest abuse against the duke of Burgundy and his country. Many of the common people collected together and went to different parts of

the town to search for Flemings, Dutchmen, Brabanters, Picards, Hainaulters, and other foreigners, to use them ill. Several were seized in the heat of their rage, and murdered.' Ib. 292.

⁹ 7 Monst. 280.

¹⁰ 7 Monst. 300.

¹¹ The king's letters to them, were dated 14 December 1435. 7 Monst. 310.

¹² Thus Fabian describes it. The heads of the city confederated to betray it to Charles and expel the English, 'and as the Englishmen fled or fought by the streets, the women and other feeble persons cast upon them stones and hot liquors, to their great confusion, so that the Englishmen were in passing misery and desolation,' p. 431. So on delivering up St. Denys, 'when they should pass upon their journey, they were derided and scorned of the French nation out of all measure,' p. 432.

¹³ Fab. 432. He was accompanied by earl Salisbury, the father of the famous Warwick.

BOOK

I.

1437.

prohess. His attack failed¹⁴; and Gloucester, arriving with a large army, hastily summoned from England, to its succor, he retired with precipitation. The English duke, in return, ravaged Flanders, from resentment, and for plunder¹⁵; but these movements only cemented the alliance between the new confederates, without endangering either. La-Hire took Soissons¹⁶, while the duke of York regained Fecamp, St. Germain-sur-Cailly, and other towns¹⁷; and the lords Scales and Talbot, with Sir Thomas Kiriell, surprized and defeated, though with no permanent benefit, the two great champions of France, La-Hire and Poton de Saintrailles¹⁸. Alternate successes occurred in 1437, when the earl of Warwick superseded York, and in 1438¹⁹; but the English generals could do little more than painfully maintain their ground, in the provinces which they had refused to take, as the price of peace.

A more serious effort to terminate the murderous warfare between two nations, that had become so equally proud, resentful, and defying, as to make pacification almost impracticable, was attempted in 1439, at a meeting between Calais and Gravelines; and the instructions given by the administration to the ambassadors display curiously the cabinet's perception of the extravagant expectations of the country, and its own sense of their impossibility or absurdity. The envoys were required, first, to demand that Charles should not disturb the king's occupation of France, nor question his title. If this was resisted, they were to offer to purchase acquiescence, by ceding to Charles territories beyond the Loire, to be holden of Henry, as chief lord. On the rejection of this, which, in the situation of the English at that time, could be considered only as an arrogant proposal, the ambassadors were to represent, that the wars for the crown of France had now lasted above a century; that in this period, more men had perished in the

¹⁴ 7 Monst. 318 and 352.¹⁵ 7 Monst. 382. He landed there 2 August 1436. Fab. 432.¹⁶ 7 Monst. 395.¹⁷ Ib. 397.¹⁸ 8 Monst. p. 11.¹⁹ Ib. p. 25, 33, 39, 95, &c.

the contest than the population of both kingdoms then amounted to; and that all the world did not contain so many noble princes, knights, squires, and men of feats, as these wars had destroyed. The orators were to add, that it was too great sorrow and horror to think or hear, that so much blood had been shed; that the Christian faith, which might have been dilated through the world, had, in consequence, greatly decreased; and that either the conflict must be terminated, or one nation must destroy the other. These moral reminiscences, which ought to have occurred to the English mind as strongly at Arras as at this time, were to be followed by a consent, that Charles should enjoy, unconditionally, all France beyond the Loire, except Guienne and Poitou. If this failed, the negotiators were to ask only, that the king should retain what he should be possessed of on the day of the agreement. Should this moderated offer be declined, their proposal was then to be, that the English should have what their Norman princes had held in their proper right, with Calais, and the adjoining castle of Guyenes; and that Henry should marry the French sovereign's daughter²⁰. If these terms should be found unattainable, they had private instructions, by which the ultimatum was to be settled. Orleans was to be released²¹; and full powers were given to the cardinal to conclude a final treaty²². One of the ambassadors, the archbishop of York, was, in a few months afterwards, made a cardinal²³.

Diplomatic instructions, with such a wide horizon of demand, and such a contractile power of concession, put the result of the negotiation intirely into the hands, and rested it on the secrecy and fidelity of the ambassadors: and yet these were numerous²⁴.

The

²⁰ Rymer 10, p. 724—6. These Instructions are dated 21 May 1439.

²¹ Rym. 728, 756.

²² These full powers were dated 25 May 1439, and gave him the real command of the negotiation. Rym. 758.

²³ On 4 Feb. 1440, he had licence to assume the cardinal dignity. Rym. 758.

²⁴ They were:

J. Archbishop of York,	Earl Stafford,
J. Duke of Norfolk,	— Oxford,
T. Bishop of Norwich,	Lord Bourgchier,
T. — St. David's,	— Hungerford,
	and others. Ib.

BOOK

1.

1440.

The treacherous communication of a copy, or intimation of their contents, was certain to frustrate every article but the last, and to impede the granting even of that: and as the pope was anxious for the pacification, on any terms, and was now inclining to the interests of France, it was not wise to make his cardinal and former legate, the most confidential negotiator for England.

It was one of the future accusations against the duke of Suffolk, that he made traitorous communications to Charles, of the councils of the English administration. He might be charged unjustly; but the envoys were too numerous to secure uncorrupted integrity, or impenetrable secrecy. The probability is, that the cabinet knew that all the terms, but the last, would be rejected; but that they had to make a parliamentary case, and to sooth the feelings of the country; and therefore, to evade impeaching charges, however moderate in their own expectations, they were large in their ostensible demands.

The duke of Gloucester protested firmly against the release of Orleans²⁵, but in vain; yet, though the ministry chose to liberate him for a ransom of 20,000 nobles²⁶, they could not venture to conclude

²⁵ On 2 June 1440. See it in old English in Rymer 10, p. 764.

²⁶ The convention for his release, for 20,000 English nobles or 40,000 scuti, is dated 2 July 1440. Rym. 777. He gave his bond for this sum on 2 Nov. Ib. 817. The duke of Bretagne guaranteed it. Ib. 785. And on 12 Nov. he signed, at Gravelines, an acknowledgment that he was liberated. Ib. 829. He had been a prisoner in England from October 1415 to November 1440. His sonnets for their general taste and elegance, make an era in early French poetry, the following, written on our expulsion from France at this period, is a specimen of his talents, and of the ancient French language at this period, and also gives his perception of the discontented state of the English mind against its government:

‘ Comment voy je ces Anglois esbays ?
Resjoys toy, franc royaume de France

On apperçoit que de Dieu sont hays,
Puisqu’ il y n’ont plus couraige ne puissance,
Bien pensoient par leur outrecuidance
Toy surmonter, et tenir en servaige;
Mais à present, Dieu pour toy se combat;
Et se monstre du tout de ta partie;
Leur grant orgueil entierement abat;
Et t’a rendu Guyenne et Normandie.

Quant les Anglois as pieça envays;
Rien n’y valoit ton sens et ta vaillance;
Lors estoires, ainsi que fut Tays,
Pecheresse, qui pour faire penance,
Enclouse fut par divine ordonnance:
Ainsi as tu esté en reclusaige,
De desconfort et douleur de couraige:
Et les Anglois menoient leur sabat,
En grans pompes, banbans, et tyrannie,
Or a tourné Dieu ton deuil en esbat,
Et t’as rendu Guyenne et Normandie.

N’ont

conclude the unpopular peace. Events unfavorable to England occurred during 1439, in the loss of Meaux²⁷, and in the marriage of the French king's daughter with the duke of Burgundy's son²⁸. But in the next Lent, Somerset and Talbot made incursions into Picardy²⁹; and in April, Somerset besieged and took Harfleur³⁰. Ambassadors from France, England, and Burgundy, again met at Calais, to treat of peace³¹; but, as the French king increased his demands with his advantages, and began to look forward to the entire expulsion of the English, no accommodation followed. Several towns submitted to Charles, who, in 1441, besieged Pontoise³². In July, the duke of York, who had been re-appointed to preside in France, marched with lords Talbot and Scales, and sir Richard Woodville, to relieve it³³, and exerted himself with a vigor and a skill which obtained several successes³⁴. The French nobles now urged Charles to make a peace; but his council, extending their views beyond the personal interest of the nobility, to the larger horizon of the national aggrandizement, he withstood their remonstrances³⁵. In 1442, he directed his forces against Gascony, to the satisfaction of its inhabitants, and with great successes³⁶. In the next year he invaded Normandy, and relieved Dieppe³⁷. Somerset opposed him, with some advantages³⁸; and in 1444, a truce

N'ont pas Anglois souvent leurs roys trahys ?
Certes ouyl ; tous en ont congnoissance.
Et encore le roy de leur pays
Est maintenant en douteuse balance ;
D'en parler mal, chascun Anglois s'avance ;
Assez monstrent, par leur mauvais langaige,
Que volentiers lui feraient oultraige.
Qui sera roy entr'eulx est grant debat.
Pour ce, France ! que veulx tu que te dye ?
De sa verge Dieu les pugnist et bat ;
Et t'a rendu Guyenne et Normandie.

PRINCE :

Roy des Francoys, gaigné as l'avantage ;
Parfaiz ton jeu comme vaillant et saige.
Maintenant, las, plus belle qu'au rabat,
De ton bon eur France Dieu remercie

Fortune en bien avecques toy sembat,
Et t'a rendu Guyenne et Normandie.

MSS. Bib. du Roi, N° 2,788.

4 Charm. 325.

²⁷ 8 Monst. 156.

²⁸ Ib. 174.

²⁹ Ib. 181.

³⁰ Ib. 200, 210.

³¹ Ib. 218.

³² Ib. 278, 280.

³³ Ib. 287.

³⁴ Ib. 287—296.

³⁵ Ib. 305—331.

³⁶ Ib. 333, 336—342.

³⁷ 8 Mon. 348.

³⁸ 8 Mons. 348. He made some conquests.

BOOK

I.

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a truce was made between the two long-contending countries³⁹, which was intended to be the precursor of a permanent peace, though at the sacrifice of all that England held, or had fought for, or most coveted in France, and on which the calamitous marriage of Margaret was intended to be engrafted. The instructions for this latter negotiation were sent in February 1444⁴⁰; and if ever a diplomatic casket was a Pandora's box to any country, that which conveyed the authority for this treaty was so to England, to its sovereign, and to its ancient aristocracy.

The particular intrigues that were pursued in the royal household, and that were dividing the cabinet, have not been distinctly revealed to us. But they seem to have resembled those, which, in all ages and countries, attend royal minorities. We have seen the king's ninth year made an era of such sufficient capacity as to take from Gloucester his protectorate, because no longer necessary. When Henry was in his 14th year, he was advised by those who thought he was kept too much from public business, and that the council of regency was transacting the affairs of state without him, to demand to be now admitted to his proper participation in them. The ruling cabinet gave him a written answer, expressing high personal compliments, but containing a positive refusal which contradicted them⁴¹. In his seventeenth year, another disabling document

³⁹ It was settled by Suffolk, Moleyns and others, to continue to 1 April 1445. 8 Monst. 379. The powers to them, to treat of truce and peace, were dated 11 February 1444. 11 Rym. p. 59—67.

⁴⁰ They were dated 20 February 1444, and addressed to W. Pole, Earl Suffolk 'great seneschal of our household, our ambassador in France.' 11 Rymer p. 53.

⁴¹ Their answer, after a commencing protestation that it was not their intent to require any thing prejudicial to the king's dignity, was, that they desired it might be said to him in their behalf, 'that though God, have endowed the king with as great understanding and feeling as ever they saw or knew in any

prince or other person of his age, nevertheless, to quit them truly to God, to the king, and to his people, they dare not take upon them to put him in conceit or opinion that he is yet endowed with so great feeling, knowledge, and wisdom, the which must in great part grow of experience; nor with so great foresight and discretion, to separate and chuse, namely, in matters of great weight and difficulty, what is expedient and behoveful to him and his people, from what might be prejudicial, perilous and harmful to them. They intimate therefore, that it was not expedient as yet to change the rule and governance, that afore this in his tender age, hath by Parliament been appointed, for the good and surety of his noble person and

document appears, by which, instead of being allowed or encouraged to discharge, more efficiently the duties of his great station, it is expressly declared, that "he shall not more attend to them in his own person, *as oft as he would*⁴²." This exclusion at the age of 17, and without any limitation of time, from that active conduct of the government which would have educated his mind to the habits of public business, could only render him unfit and unused, and in time unwilling to transact it. From these documents, the political incapacity of Henry may be fairly ascribed to his injudicious governors, and too ecclesiastical cabinet. The evidence which their own language gives of his capacity, is also their condemnation; as it proves, that they either flattered, or misdirected him. Both he and his uncle of Gloucester appear to have been kept assiduously in the back ground, by those who by thus forcibly continuing their own power, and promoting their own interests, undermined their popularity; and with that, the government, to which they gave a partial and excluding bias⁴³.

That cardinal Beaufort, with the aid of his coadjutor, the archbishop of York, had governed the administration to the exclusion of others of the regency council, was the complaint of the duke of Gloucester. In his address to the king against them, he states this to be a matter of public notoriety⁴⁴; and that the cardinal had

and of this land: they then beseech him, 'that if any such motions be again made to him, apart, in things of great weight and substance, &c. that he will take the advice of his parliament, or of his continual council for the time being.' This was read to the king at Cirencester, 12 Nov. 1434. It is remarkable that the duke of Gloucester did not sign this answer. Rol. Parl. 5, p. 438, from Titus E. 5.

⁴² Rolls Parl. V. 5, p. 438, 9. This curious document appoints an annual salary to each of these ruling counsellors, and provides 'that my lord of Gloucester shall not lay in his counter letter.' Ib. It is dated 13 Nov. 1437.

⁴³ Gloucester reminded the king, 'how often tymes I have offered my service to and

for the defence of your realme of Fraunce, and duchie of Normandy, where I have been put therefrom, by the labor of the said cardinal, in preferring other after his singular affection, which hath caused great part of the said duchie to be lost.' See his articles in Hall, 201.

⁴⁴ 'Through your landes it is noysed, that the said cardinal and archbishop had and have the governaunce of you and all your lande, and have also estranged me, your sole uncle; my cosyn of York; my cosyn of Huntingdon, and many other lords of your kin, from having any knowledge of any great matter that might touch your high estate; and of lords spiritual, the archbishop of Canterbury should be your chief

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of his own authority, released the king of Scotland, and had taken upon himself the royal state: and had appointed the embassies to Arras and Gravelines, the latter for reasons unknown to other lords of the council; and had given the duke of Orleans his liberty⁴⁵.

Besides these assumptions of power, the cardinal is also charged with pursuing extraordinary and illegal means of amassing wealth⁴⁶; and the duke declares, "that it had not been possible to the said cardinal to have come in to his great riches, but by such means; for of his church, it might not rise: and inheritance he had none⁴⁷." Gloucester desired, that these ecclesiastical statesmen might be estranged from the council, "that men may be at their freedom to say, what they think of truth:" he added, with the courage of a high spirit, and from a feeling of safety, which he was soon after to experience to be a vain confidence against the lawlessly exerted power of his great antagonist, "I dare speak of my truth. The poor dare not do so⁴⁸." He dared; and the immediate attack on his wife, and the subsequent arrest and death of himself at Bury, exhibited the effects of his so daring.

The king received his charges, and "committed the hearing thereof to his council, whereof the most part were spiritual persons. So, what for fear, and what for favor, the matter was winked at, and nothing said to it;" but, "a fair countenance was made to the duke, as though no displeasure had been taken, nor no malice borne against him⁴⁹." The dissimulation was of no long continuance. The revenge taken was extreme.

chief counsellor, who is also set aside.' Art. 4, Hall, p. 198.

⁴⁵ Art. 6, 13, 14, 15, p. 199.

⁴⁶ See Art. 5, 6, 7, 9, 19, 20. Hall, p. 199—201. The duke declares, that as well in England as in France and Normandy, 'neither office, livelihood, nor captain, may be had without too great a good given to him, whereby great part of all the loss that is lost, they have been the causes of; for who that would give most, his was the price; not considering the merits, service nor suffisaunce of

persons.' Art. 22, p. 201. It is improbable that the duke would have made a public charge of this sort, if it had been unfounded.

⁴⁷ Art. 22, p. 201.

⁴⁸ Art. 24, p. 201. As these Articles mention the meetings at Arras and Calais, they must have been presented after the latter, which was in 1439, and before Kempe, who is called archbishop, was made a cardinal, which was before 4 Feb. 1440. See note 23.

⁴⁹ Hall, p. 202.

The

The coadjutors of the cardinal Beaufort, in his administration, besides the cardinal archbishop of York, who became also chancellor and archbishop of Canterbury, were, Adam Moleyns, who was made keeper of the privy seal and bishop of Chichester; William Pole the earl of Suffolk, the great seneschal of the royal household; lord Say, who became the king's chamberlain, and another prelate, the bishop of Salisbury. These, on the death of Bedford, became the great directors of the English cabinet; and we have one expressive intimation of their mode of government, in the complaint of the commons in the succeeding year, that the sheriffs returned persons to parliament as the members for cities and boroughs who had not been elected by them⁵⁰; this arbitrary and unconstitutional mode of procuring a commanding majority of the house of commons, was one of the grievances that produced the civil war.

Of this ministry, the earl of Suffolk became the leading lay-member and the principal favorite at court⁵¹; and the two great measures on which he raised the ladder of his ambition, and which became his ruin, were the marriage of the king with a princess of his own choosing, and the cessation of hostilities with France, on any terms, even to the sacrifice of all the English conquests. So grossly is ambition cheated by its selfish contrivances: but it commonly ruins itself by its egotism. By narrowing its base to its own interests, its superstructure, however elaborate, is never stable; and it becomes the advantage of all others to overthrow it.

The lady first selected in 1442, with the concurrence or by the advice of Gloucester, for the queen, was the daughter of the earl Armagnac,

⁵⁰ This petition, presented in 1436, is in the parliament Rolls, V. 4, p. 511. It prays that cities and boroughs may have the elections free, and that sheriffs return those who were actually chosen, under the penalty of forfeiting 10*l.* lb.

⁵¹ The impeachment against him in 1450, states, that twelve years before, or in 1438, he had been 'the next and pryvyest of the king's council, and steward of the household.' Parl. Rolls, V. 5, p. 180.

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Armagnac, by which Gascony and Auvergne would have been secured to the English crown, and thus have founded an important limitation to the power of France on the side of the Pyrenees. But Suffolk counteracted this alliance, to the duke's extreme displeasure⁵², and to the political injury of his country; and the French king, directing his arms successfully on those provinces, the nuptial treaty was annulled, though the parties had been affianced. Suffolk, with the approbation of his friends in the cabinet, who saw the personal advantage to themselves, though not to the state, of having a queen who should owe her elevation to them, selected Margaret for this high dignity, the daughter of the duke of Anjou, nominal king of Sicily and Jerusalem; although her dowry was but a pleasing person, high spirit, and a resolution to give power to the ministers who procured her marriage. The king's consent was easily obtained, as he yielded to every persuader, and was desirous of being married. But there was one obstacle, that ought alone to have prevented an upright English statesman from countenancing the measure, if what were then thought to be the interests and the honor of England, were to be the objects of his regard. She was niece to the queen of France, and her father could not venture to consent to the match, without the previous approbation of the French king; and this was hopeless, without such sacrifices as would satisfy his political demands, and terminate the war. Suffolk resolved to be the person who should accomplish what was really irreconcilable, both in rectitude and in prudence. He felt, that the highest gratifications of personal ambition would be his reward, if he succeeded; and to secure to himself the prime ministership of England, he plunged into all the difficulties and dangers of the measure: and he reaped fully all its advantages, and, not less abundantly, all its mischiefs.

He

⁵² Fabian, 440. After mentioning that Suffolk had frustrated this marriage he adds, 'which kindled a new brand of burning envy between the lord protector and him, and took

fire in such wise that it left not, till both parties, with many others, were consumed and slain.' *Ib.*

He saw the hazards, but he thought his policy could surmount them. Having been appointed, with Adam Moleyns, to treat with France, one of his first precautions was, to obtain a mandate from the king, stating, that the earl, having fears and scruples about the matters of his embassy, the sovereign, from his own entire and peculiar desire for the peace and matrimony, enjoined him to fulfil, without hesitation, the whole of his embassy⁵³. He caused this document to be sanctioned by Parliament.

His next step was for popular, as well as for parliamentary effect. In the sessions that was opened on the 25th of February 1444, the cardinal archbishop and chancellor expatiated on the diligent labors of Suffolk, with others, for the *glorious* marriage with princess Margaret, and for the establishment of peace, or at least for the abstinence of war, for a certain time. The speaker of the house of commons, on a subsequent day, by which time Suffolk had been created a marquis, after dilating on his labors in conserving peace within the kingdom, in repressing riots, in the wars beyond the seas, in treating for peace, in procuring a suspension of hostilities, to the great comfort of the merchants of the country, and in negotiating the royal marriage; requested, in the name of the commons, that Suffolk's services might be imprinted on the king's heart. The sovereign was instructed to answer, that their prayers were singularly pleasing to him; and that he would take the marquis into his benign grace and favor⁵⁴.

Least all these public acts should not be a sufficient indemnity, a message was delivered, in the king's name, to the two houses, notifying, that the sovereign himself had appointed a day in October for the convention of a peace with France, and that none of the lords of his cabinet had moved him to it; that they had requested him then to declare, that it was his own personal determination, and that they might be for ever discharged and excused

⁵³ Rymer, 11, p. 53.

⁵⁴ Roll. Par. 5, p. 66—74.

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excused concerning it. An act was then passed, reciting a former treaty, which bound the king not to make peace without the assent of parliament; and repealing this restriction⁵⁵.

Thus secured, Suffolk thought that he had taken off from himself all political responsibility; and he proceeded to the conclusion of the marriage. It could be effected only by surrendering to her family, and thereby to the French king, Anjou, Mans, and the conté of Maine. Gloucester resisted this cession, as Maine was the key of Normandy⁵⁶. His opposition was fruitless. The province was given up. The nuptials were celebrated by proxy at Tours, where the French king then resided; and the princess was brought by the exulting Suffolk, blind to the awful future, to the shores of her new country.

Margaret's
arrival.
May 1444.

The English received her with a kindness which indicated, that if she had abstained from intermeddling with politics, she might have been popular and beloved. She was married to Henry at Southwike in Hampshire, and was conducted by the chief nobility and gentry, with great state, to London. Their numerous retinues of knights, esquires, and retainers, were in appropriate liveries, with browdered sleeves, some enriched with beaten gold. Gloucester brought 500 of his feudal attendants, in one uniform of splendid apparel. On the 18th of May, the mayor, aldermen, sheriffs, and commonalty attended her at Blackheath, in their red hoods, and brown and blue gowns, and with the conisaunce or flags of their various trades. Pageants and resemblances, from old histories, were exhibited in the city as she passed, "to the great comfort of her, and of such as came with her." On Sunday, May the 30th, she was crowned at Westminster. Knightly justs were held for three days, in the sanctuary before the abbey⁵⁷; and the genius of

⁵⁵ Roll P. 5, p. 103.

⁵⁶ Fab. 441.

⁵⁷ Fabian, 442. On this occasion lord Stafford was made duke of Buckingham;

Warwick, duke of Warwick; Dorset, Marquis of Dorset, and Suffolk, Marquis of Suffolk. Ib. 441.

of Lydgate was roused, or employed, to versify her welcome, and chaunt her praise⁵⁸. Poets as lavishly promise felicities, as they ascribe excellencies, to the heroes and heroines of their panegyric; but they are neither good painters nor true prophets. They can command words, and sometimes feelings, but not events. They talk eloquently of virtues and perfections, but can as little give them to their patronizing favorites, as they seem able, at times, to acquire them for themselves. The inspiration of the bard is not always from Olympus; and in Margaret's case, the sad realities of history falsified, most lamentably, all that was hoped and anticipated, rhimed or foretold. Her presence was not long an angel visitant of joy and peace; but soon, too soon, became a direful figure, leading both her friends and enemies to death, exile, poverty, and wretchedness⁵⁹.

⁵⁸ Lydgate's verses and pageant on her marriage still remain among his MS. works. Hall says of her, that she 'excelled all other as well in beauty and favor, as in wit and policie; and was of stomach and corage more like to a man, than a woman.' p. 205. His epitome of the effects of her union is an expressive abridgement of the rest of the reign, 'after this spousage, the king's friends fell from him; the lords of his realm fell in division amongst themselves; the commons rebelled against their natural prince; fields were foughten; many thousands slain, and finally, the king deposed, and his son slain, and his queen sent home again, with as much misery and sorrow, as she was received with pomp and triumph.' p. 205.

⁵⁹ The remarks which Dr. Gascoigne the chancellor of Oxford, about this time, has inserted on this marriage in his Diction. Theol. still existing in MSS. at Oxford, show us the angered and disrespectful feelings with which the criticising part of the nation now contemplated that event, and the remarks they made upon it. I quote from the Cotton MSS. Vitel. 156, which contains Dr. James's MS. extracts from Gascoigne:

'Lately in a kingdom, a certain woman

was married to a certain king, and the person who contracted this marriage, by a secret and false compact, alienated a great duchy from this kingdom.'

'England received no advantage with queen Margaret, but the loss of Anjou and Maine which her husband Henry VI. gave for her under his great seal to the king her father.'

'In consequence of losing these provinces, England also lost Normandy, France, and Gascony; Anjou was then lost. The duke of Suffolk betrothed for the king, Margaret, the younger daughter of the duke of Lorraine, who was called king of Sicily, but had no part of it. Having contracted this marriage, the duke came to England, and procured a large subsidy, and then sailed back to France to bring Margaret here to be queen. But then the French arrested her, saying, that neither should have a safe conduct from their king to her, and that he should not carry her to England.'

'The duke considering what would befall him in England if he did not get her over, obtained from Henry leave to give up Anjou and Maine to her father Regnier. But immediately after these were surrendered, the
French

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French obtained Normandy and France without war or a struggle, from the hands of the few English that were there; and in a short time also Gascony.

In another place he adds, 'her father swore to the duke and duchess of Suffolk, that he would efficaciously labor for making the final peace between England and France, if Anjou and Maine were given up to him.

The king and council authorized Adam Moyleyns the bishop of Chichester, to give up these provinces, who delivered them to Regnier (her father.) Two dukes and an archbishop formed the council at the Dominican fryars, at London, which consented to their concession.' James' MSS. Vitel. 155, 156. The pages referred to in Gascoigne's MS. are 579, 590, 609.

HISTORY

OF

ENGLAND.

CHAP. XII.

THE DEATH OF THE DUKE OF GLOUCESTER, AND
CARDINAL BEAUFORT.

A LARGE dowry of several manors was settled on the queen¹. Suffolk was raised to the highest rank of English nobility; and several manors and wardships were given to him to support his ducal dignity. He became the ruling favorite with both king and queen; and he had established a great influence in the court of France, from which, as no benefits were derived by his country, some were inferred, and may be presumed, to have resulted to himself.

But before he could be secure on the summit of his ambition, it was necessary that one political opponent should be removed. Greatness not born to, is suspicious of its own permanence, and alarmed at opposition. It knows itself to have risen more by chances and contrivances than by merit, and it feels itself to have no natural stability. But even this jealousy seems insufficient to account for an attack on the next heir of the crown. This was a measure so unusually violent, that one of the most extravagant charges

¹ Rol. Parl. 5, 118. Three years afterwards another grant occurs, which mentions that the king having assigned her 3,666*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* in

part of her dower, apporitions it to be paid from the customs at Southampton, the duchy of Cornwall, and the exchequer. Ib. p. 132.

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Dutchess
accused.

charges against Suffolk afterwards, that he aimed at vesting the succession to the crown in his own family, ceases to be improbable, when we consider his arresting, for the purpose of destroying, the king's uncle, and heir presumptive, the duke of Gloucester.

Before the king's marriage, an attempt was made to vex or degrade the duke, by attacking the dutchess with a charge, to us fantastical, but then of great impression; that she was destroying the royal life by witchcraft². The power of necromancy was at that time believed to be attainable; and in that emerging day of knowledge, when the art of transmuting metals into gold and silver, and of making elixirs of immortality, was earnestly pursued, under the sanction of royal patents³, the attempt to command nature by sorcery may have been actually studied. When all believed that it was possessed, and many taught that it was to be acquired, some may have essayed to gain those powers above humanity, which numbers, in all ages, have wished for; but far more persons were slandered with the imputation, from the alarm, malice, and ignorance, of their prejudiced neighborhood. In this reign, the charge was peculiarly malevolent; for there is reason to suppose, that it was made, not unfrequently, on those whose only crime was some of the new religious opinions, which were prosecuted as impious heresy.

The accusation against the dutchess was, that, at her request, three clergymen, and an elderly woman of Eye, had made an image of wax like the king, which they consumed gradually before the fire; that as that figure slowly melted, the king might pine and decay⁴.

It

² A similar charge was made afterwards, against the duke of Clarence.

³ Thus in 1449, in 1452, licenses to transmute metals were granted, and in 1456, to make that 'that precious medicine which some call the mother of philosophers and the empress medicine; others the inestimable glory; others the fifth essence (quintessence), and others the philosophers stone and elixir

of life.' See these grants in Rym. Fed. VII. p. 240, 309, 379, and another in 1460. p. 462, &c.

⁴ Fabian, 437. Absurd as these fancies are, yet even the courtier and the learned believed them in queen Elizabeth's days. Bishop Jewel, in an address delivered to the queen against witches, could then say, 'these eyes have seen most evident and manifest marks

It is so extraordinary, that the lady of the first person in the nation, after the king, his only living uncle, and the then next heir to the throne, should be harassed with a charge like this; or that it should be even entertained at all in those days, when it was so dangerous to assail or to slander greatness, that we can have no doubt it was the premeditated act of a powerful party. No mere individual, unconnected with other purposes, would have presumed to make such an imputation, or would have been listened to if he attempted it. The incident is too little detailed for our curiosity to receive full satisfaction; but there are some attendant circumstances that deserve our consideration. The individuals accused as her confederates, were Roger Bolingbroke, a clergyman; Thomas Southwell, a canon of Westminster; and John Hume, the chaplain of the dutchess; besides Margery Jourdemayn, a reputed witch.

This Margery Jourdemayn had been apprehended ten years before, together with three other ecclesiastics; Thomas Norfelde, a Dominican friar, living at Worcester; John Asshewell, a friar of the Holy Cross at London; and John Virley, a clergyman, on a charge of sorcery: but the order to arrest Norfelde commanded him to be brought before the royal council, with all his books treating of magic, or *any other suspected matters*⁵. The latitude of the last expressions, considered with a recollection of the fierce persecution of what was called lollardy, at that time, leads to a belief, that sorcery was not the main imputation. Their commitment to such a place as Windsor castle also implies, that more important objects were connected with their seizure. Whatever was the plan, it seems to have failed; for Margery was released on

Former arrest
of Margery.

1432.

marks of their wickedness. Your grace's subjects pine away even unto the death; their color fadeth, their flesh rotteth, their speech is benumbed; their senses are bereft.
1 Aikins Mem. Eliz. 284. Nor did he speak

to unbelieving ears, for a violent act of parliament was made against them.

⁵ Rym. Fed. 10, p. 505. On the prosecution of R. Walker in 1419 for sorcery, see 3 Wilk. Conc. 394.

on her husband giving bail for her; and the others, on similar cautionary securities.

Four years after this, an event occurred, that is likely to have put Suffolk into a state of personal hostility with the dutchess and her family. She was the daughter of Reynold Cobham, the lord of Stereburgh⁶. In 1433, the duke of Orleans was committed to the custody of Suffolk, with a daily salary for his maintenance⁷. But after Bedford's death, this illustrious and profitable prisoner was, in May 1436, taken from Suffolk, and put under the care of Sir Reynold Cobham, the father of the dutchess, with the same pecuniary benefit⁸. Her father was descended from that ancestor from whom the lady Cobham came, who had married Sir John Oldcastle⁹. If his new religious opinions had spread to the two branches of the Cobham line, the persecution of the dutchess would become more intelligible.

The three ecclesiastics arrested with Margery Jourdemayn, on the charge against the dutchess in 1443, were not those who had been imprisoned with her in 1432. One of them, Bolingbroke, is described by a contemporary as one of the most famous clerks in all the world, whose fate was exceedingly lamented by many. He was particularly distinguished for his knowledge of astronomy, as well as necromancy¹⁰. He was accused as the counsellor of the dutchess in the magic art¹¹. The supposition, that a clergyman of his celebrity would conspire with a person of her rank, for such a treasonable purpose, if it were practicable, and for such an absurd one, as with his science he must have known it to have been, is so improbable, that it is more likely that lollardism, and not necromancy, was their actual crime. But the apparent farce was converted into a tragedy, by the sentences on her alleged counsellors. Bolingbroke was exposed to public derision in St. Paul's

Execution of
the accused.

⁶ Wals. MSS.

⁷ This was 14s. 4d. a day. Rym. 10, 564.

⁸ Rym. 10, 658.

⁹ Bank's Baronage, V. 1, p. 270, and V. 2,

p. 106, 119. Oldcastle took the title of Lord Cobham from his wife. Hall, 48.

¹⁰ Will. Wyrcestre, p. 461.

¹¹ Ib.

St. Paul's churchyard, on a high seat, to be seen by all, in a fantastic dress, with waxen images, and things which they called his necromantic instruments. He was then drawn to Tyburn, hung and quartered, and his head was fixed on London bridge¹². He protested, with his last breath, that he was innocent of the charge¹³. The next day, Margaret Jourdemayn was burnt in Smithfield¹⁴. Southwell, the canon of Westminster, died in the Tower the night before he was to have been judged; and Hume, the chaplain of the implicated dutchess, received the suspicious bounty of a pardon¹⁵.

The powerful persecutors did not venture to make the blow at the dutchess so fatal. Whether the public sympathy at transactions so nefarious, or dread of her husband's yet remaining power, mitigated her doom, is not mentioned. She had been imprisoned in Leed's castle; but she was sentenced to be brought to London, and to do three times penance. On Thursday, she was placed near the Temple gate, and was made to walk in public disgrace to St. Paul's, with waxen tapers in her hands. On Saturday, she was thus paraded from the Swan in Thames-street to Christchurch; and on the Sunday, from St. Paul's to St. Peter's in Cornhill¹⁶. She was then committed to a lasting imprisonment; for, after being in other places¹⁷, we find a warrant, in the October of the next year, for transferring her from Chester castle to Kenilworth¹⁸.

This attack on the dutchess could have but one effect on her husband's mind. The church was made the engine to deal the blow; and the heads of the church were the ministers of the country, to whom, with Suffolk, the queen united herself, and with them, and by them, governed the country¹⁹. To have contributed to

¹² Will. Wyr. 461.

¹³ Fabian, 439. Hall, 202.

¹⁴ W. Wyr. Fab.

¹⁵ Fab. 439.

¹⁶ W. Wyr. 460, 1. 2. Lel. Collect. 493.

¹⁷ At first a castle under Sir Thomas Stanley. Wyr. 461. And then, according to the

Chronicle in Leland, to a prison in the Isle of Man.

¹⁸ Rym. 11, p. 45.

¹⁹ 'Shortly after, all was ruled by the quene and her council to the great disprofit of the king and his realm, and to the great maulger and obloquy of the quene.' Fab. 422.

BOOK

I.

1444.

to end an useless war, may have been Suffolk's wisdom rather than his treachery ; but to make his administration and his policy so lucrative to himself, from the repeated grants of honors, manors and property²⁰, which he accumulated with a rapidity that looked like rapacity, led the nation to suppose, that the public good was sacrificed to his private advantage. This want of disinterestedness, which was both imputed and believed, caused that which was judicious, to appear to be sordid ; and fixing the general hatred on himself, extended it also to the principles which he espoused and disgraced, and to the government which he directed.

But the general attention became soon absorbed by a violence, which agitated the public sensibility into a personal hatred of the new-made duke, and his ministerial coadjutors ; and which roused it to destroy most of them, within a few years afterwards, by one of the greatest and most ungovernable of all evils, a popular insurrection.

That the queen had been urged by her father, not to allow herself and Henry to be kept under, like young wards, but to take upon themselves the government of the kingdom ; and that, by her permission and favor, Suffolk and Buckingham, " not unprocured " by the two English cardinals, Winchester and York, conspired to destroy the duke of Gloucester, is asserted by the old chronicler, from divers writers whom he does not specify²¹. The precise plans and causes of such a wicked confederacy, have not come down to us ; but the determined and fatal effects soon appeared.

1447.
Gloucester
arrested.

The ministers issued writs to convene a parliament, at first at Cambridge ; but the place was afterwards changed to meet at Bury St. Edmunds, as more fitted for their secret purpose, on the 10th of February²². With this summons they privately sent a requisition from the crown, for the people of the country to meet there

²⁰ See Calend. Rot. Patent. p. 275, 284, 285, 287. Croyl. 521. He had the custody of the duke of Orleans. Rym. 10, 564. And was in the embassies of 1435, 1444,

1445. Rym. Fæd. 10, 613 ; 11, 53, 94.

¹ Hall Chr. 209.

²² Rolls Parl. V. 5, 128.

there, "in their most defensible arms, to give attendance upon the king²³." This order was obeyed; and the roads about the town were so strictly kept by armed men, both day and night, that many died of cold and watching²⁴.

The duke of Gloucester, unsuspecting of the plot of violence that had been concerted against him²⁵, attended among the other peers. He had been, in the preceding year, accused, in open council, of various articles, which he satisfactorily repelled²⁶. Such an unavailing accusation may have increased his animosity and popularity, and endangered his opponents; and their alarm may have hurried them into crime. But whatever was their motive, although the calamities which had followed to the throne itself, by measures of the same sort, in the reigns of the second Edward and Richard, might have taught forbearance; yet after opening the session by a moral and religious speech on peace and good counsel, from the primate and chancellor²⁷, the ministry suddenly arrested the duke of Gloucester, by the agency of lord Beaumont, the high constable, accompanied by the dukes of Somerset and Buckingham. He was put into custody under a strong guard, and his thirty-two attendants were also seized, and sent to different prisons²⁸. The fewness of these followers proved his arrest to be a measure unexpected by himself, as great men always came to parliament attended by large retinues, when they apprehended danger. Loud murmurs arose among the people, as the news became circulated; but the most favorable town for the purpose had been selected; and to allay the ferment, assertions were spread that he had conspired to kill the king, in order to liberate his dutchess. Before any examination or trial occurred, within a few days afterwards, and

²³ Fabian, 443.

²⁴ Stowe's Chron. 386.

²⁵ 'Nihil doli conjiciens.' Hist. Croyl. cent. 521.

The duke not without great laud and praise, sufficiently answered to all things to him objected.' Hall, 209. This writer had

documents before him, on this period, which do not now exist.

²⁷ Rolls Parl. V. 5, p. 128. On 11 Feb. the commons chose their speaker, W. Tresham, who on the Monday following was presented and approved. p. 129.

²⁸ Fab. 444. 2 Fel. 494.

BOOK

I.

1447.

and although seen safe and well in the preceding evening, he was found dead in his bed, on the morning of the 23d of February²⁹. His body was exposed to public view, that it might be seen to have no wound³⁰; as if our national history had not already shewn, that murder might be committed without leaving the marks of personal violence. If he was killed, no crime could be more foolish, and none ever became more pernicious to its inventors; if his death was the stroke of nature, it could not have occurred under circumstances more suspicious. The friends of the government maintained, that he had died of apoplexy. The nation believed that he had been murdered; and the political convenience of his death to the administration, their long hostility to him, and his violent arrest and imprisonment, before any accusation, and without any specific charge, were deemed satisfactory evidences of the secret crime. At this distant period, we can only add, that when the ministry determined thus to arrest and imprison, on a charge of high treason, a personage who was not only the first nobleman in the kingdom, but also the presumptive heir to the crown; to whom a large portion of the nation was attached; and who possessed, in his own dignities and inheritances, a great force of military retainers, they must have deliberately resolved on his destruction. The arrest would have been their own downfall, if it were not followed by his death. Such an act of violence, if he survived it, could never be forgiven, nor, from the circumstances of the country, be long unavenged. Their own safety, and his life, became incompatible after such a measure; and to have voluntarily placed themselves in this dilemma implies, that

²⁹ Hist. Croyl. 521. W. Wyr. 464. Fab. 444. Hall mentions that some wrote, 'that he was stifled between two feather beds.' p. 209. His sudden death was certain. Its manner meant to be as incapable of proof.

³⁰ Fab. 444. W. Wyr. mentions his death without comment, and Whethampstead says, 'that his arrest and close custody threw him

into a sickness, which in a few days killed him.' p. 365. But this is not sufficient to prove that his death was not violent. As Suffolk continued in full power for three years, no investigation took place; but the suspicion and imputation never left him: secret murders can rarely be proved.

that his catastrophe, whether anticipated by an apoplexy of nature, or perpetrated by their atrocious order, was in accordance with their deliberate intentions. The public imputed it to their flagitious policy; and popular vengeance, in no long time afterwards, exacted a dreadful retribution.

Five of the duke's household were sent to London, and sentenced to be drawn, hanged, and quartered, as traitors. They were suspended on the gibbet in the presence of Suffolk, who chose to be at it; but when near expiring, and after being marked with a knife to be quartered, they were cut down, on his producing the king's pardon³¹. This theatrical ostentation of almost useless mercy, was cheered by the sudden feelings of the spectators; but the ancient chronicler adds, what might have been anticipated, "the grudge and murmur of the people ceased not against the marquis of Suffolk, for the death of the good duke of Gloucester, of whose murder he was specially suspected³²." That he could gratify himself by personally contemplating the last agonies of the servants of his political rival, and keep the pardon in his pocket till exhausted nature was ceasing her last struggles, announces a cruel insensibility of heart, which makes the imputation of their master's murder less incredible³³. The same stern animosity appears in the passing an act immediately afterwards, depriving the surviving dutchess of her dower³⁴, though common policy might have suggested the expediency of affecting at least some sympathy for one, who was now as wretched as she was harmless. These circumstances compel us to recollect, that Suffolk had, three years before, given himself a pecuniary interest in Gloucester's death, by having procured the grant of the county of Pembroke, if the duke should die without male heirs, and of Pembroke, Tenby, and

³¹ Fab. 444.

³² Ib.

³³ Their pardon (Rymer, 11, p. 179,) is grounded on four strange reasons: 1. Because God reserves vengeance to himself. 2. Because it was Friday when the king signed it.

3. Because the assumption of the Virgin was near. 4. Because of the many favors which the king had been receiving from God.

³⁴ Rolls Parl. 5, p. 135. This was done so soon after his death as 3 March. Ib.

BOOK

I.

1447.

The cardinal
dies.

and Kilgarron castles, and of some Welsh domains, if he should leave no issue³⁵; and had, in the year immediately preceding the catastrophe, enriched his nephew at Gloucester's expence and degradation³⁵.*

The public sense of justice was soon after astonished, but gratified, to learn, that Gloucester's bitterest and most ancient antagonist, the cardinal prelate of Winchester, survived him but six weeks³⁶. The bishop may deserve the panegyric of the monk of Croyland, that he was peculiarly distinguished above all the nobility of England for his probity, wisdom, riches, and glory³⁷. He could not fail to be affluent, who, besides lucrative dignities, obtained large grants from the crown, and a remission for life of all the tenths and quotas which the rest of the clergy paid, and a release from all fines³⁸; and who had taken those means of amassing wealth, to which Gloucester alluded, in his last memorial against him. Wordly glory is the usual attendant on so much property and power. That he was an able man, cannot be disputed; and he may have had moral probity in his social transactions: but that

³⁵ Cal. Rot. Patent. p. 285. This was made one of the articles of his future impeachment. Rolls P. 5, 181. The grant was both to himself and his wife, as most of the grants to him were; a circumstance that indicates much connubial affection. The domestic feelings of husband and parent formed a part of his mixed character.

³⁵* This document is dated 22 Aug. 1446, by which the duke was compelled to abandon those lands and honors in Guienne which were then given to the foreign nobleman who had married Suffolk's niece. Rym. 11, p. 147. Suffolk had also obtained the wardships of the person and lands of the countess of Warwick, and of the duke of Somerset's daughter. Hall, p. 207. The profit of such wardships we may infer from the fact that the fine, or sum paid for the duke of York's leave to marry, was 10,000*l*. 4 Parl. Rolls, 465.

³⁶ Cardinal Beaufort died on the 11 April

1447. W. Wyr. 464. And his brother the duke of Exeter on the following August. Ib. Whom he had placed in parliament next to the duke of Gloucester. Rolls Parl. Rymer.

³⁷ Hist. Croyl. 521.

³⁸ Cal. Rot. Patent, 279, 281, 2, 3. Rym. Fed. 10, p. 681, V. 11, p. 20. He was rich enough to be frequently lending money to the crown: in one year 20,000*l*.; in the next 10,000*l*.; in another 50,000*l*.; afterwards 6,000*l*., 18,000*l*. and 9,000 marcs and 7,000 marcs; and to give the king 13,350 marcs for some castles and manors. Cal. Rot. p. 271, 2, 6, 7, 9, 280, 1, besides having leave to take 20,000*l*. to Basle. 10 Rym. 538. And to raise his crusading army. Ib. 419. We see his influence and one source of his wealth in a grant he obtained, on an allegation of unthriftiness in the abbot, of being guardian of the abbey of Battle, with power to take the revenue. MSS. Cleop. E. 3.

that he possessed or displayed those christian graces and feelings which it was the duty of a christian bishop to inculcate and exemplify, was hardly possible for one, who lived and died a great statesman; and is not reconcileable with some of his recorded actions, which the most favoring candor can only pity and regret.

The character drawn of him by Hall seems to correspond better with his public conduct³⁹; and we owe to this writer an account of his death-bed feelings, which, coming from his own chaplain, may be considered as authentic⁴⁰. As he lay on that pillow from which he was never to rise in this world, he was heard to exclaim, "Why should I die, having so much riches? If the whole realm would save my life, I am able, either by policy to get it, or by riches to buy it. Fie! will not death be hindered? nor will money do nothing? When my nephew of Bedford died, I thought myself half up the wheel: but when I saw mine other nephew of Gloucester deceased, then I thought myself able to be equal with kings; and so thought to increase my treasure, in hope to have worn a triple crown. But I see now the world faileth me; and so I am deceived. I pray you all to pray for me⁴¹."

His death-bed.

The

³⁹ 'More noble of blood, than notable in learning; haut in stomach and high in countenance; rich above measure of all men and to few, liberal; disdainful to his kin, and dreadful to his lovers; preferring money before friendship; many things beginning, and nothing performing.' Hall, p. 210.

⁴⁰ 'Doctor John Baker his privy counsellor and his chaplain, wrote, that he, lying on his death bed, said these words.' Hall, p. 210. I have not been able to meet with the MS. of Dr. Baker's work. It would be highly curious if it could be found.

⁴¹ He was the son of John of Gaunt, by the lady, whom after the cardinal's birth, he made his third wife. He studied in part at Aix-la-Chapelle. He was made in 1397, when very young, bishop of Lincoln, and in 1404, bishop of Winchester and chancellor. His will is dated 21 Jan. 1446, and has been printed

among the royal and noble wills. p. 311—3. He begins it with a moral recollection that must have been rather his rhetoric, than his feeling, 'how transitory, mutable and perishing is this life! I look upon it to be rather as a shadow that soon vanishes, or a spectacle, than a solid duration of days.' p. 321. His charitable legacies do credit to his feelings. Besides 4,000*l.* to the prisoners in Newgate, Ludgate, Fleet, Marshalsea, King's Bench, and in the prison belonging to his Southward manor, he bequeathed his residue for works of charity and pious uses, especially in relieving poor religious houses, in marrying poor girls and in succoring the poor, as his executors shall think will most contribute to the salvation of his soul.' His codicils were dated 7 and 9 April 1447. In the last two days before he died, he leaves Queen Margaret his bed of the golden cloth of

BOOK

I.

1447.

The end of those who were concerned in the arrest, if not in the murder, of the duke of Gloucester, was peculiarly unhappy. Cardinal Beaufort only survived him six weeks. The duke of Somerset, his nephew, in less than twelve months afterwards, committed suicide, because that courtly favor waned, which, by his co-operation with its worst measures, he had sought to secure⁴². The duke of Suffolk perished violently. The duke of Buckingham was wounded in the first; and was killed in the third battle of the civil war, in which Lord Beaumont fell; and the most distinguished other members of the administration were murdered by a future insurgent mob. The queen herself, so far from profiting by it, found all her ambitious hopes defeated by its occurrence⁴³. Crime usually disappoints the hope that adopts it.

Gloucester's
character.

The duke of Gloucester, amid failings that have been before alluded to, has acquired the pleasing epithet of The Good⁴⁴; and has been extolled for his promotion of the learned or deserving clergy⁴⁵. Fond of literature, and of literary conversation, he patronized men of talent and erudition⁴⁶. One is called, in a public

of Damascus, in which she had slept at his manor of Waltham, with the Arras tapestry, hanging in the same chamber. p. 340.

⁴² He died 31 March 1448. He had been a prisoner in France 15 years. He was released at last and made duke of Somerset in 1443. He went again to France and returned with great pomp to England, but on some accusations, not particularized, he was forbidden the king's presence; the monk of Croyland, adds 'the noble heart of so illustrious a man took the message of this unfortunate rumor most indignantly; and not able to bear the stain of so great a disgrace by his own procuring (*procurando, ut fertur*) he hastened his own death; chusing rather to end compendiously his present sorrow, than to pass longer an unhappy life in opprobrium.' p. 519. His daughter was the mother of Henry VII.

⁴³ 'His death brought to pass that thing which she would most fain have eschewed,

and took from her that jewel, which she most desired. For, if this duke had lived, the duke of York durst not have made title to the crown; the nobles had not conspired against the king, nor the commons rebelled.' Hall; p. 210.

⁴⁴ 'For his honorable and liberal demeanour, he was surnamed the good duke of Gloucester.' Fab. 444. The popular phrase of 'dining with duke Humphrey,' implies the long sympathising remembrance by the public, of his fate.

⁴⁵ W. Wyr. p. 463.

⁴⁶ 'He was frequently noticed by the foreign literati: Leo Aretins dedicated to him a translation of Aristotle's Politics; Peter de Monte, a work on the Differences of the Virtues and Vices; Lapis Castellius, his book on the comparison of study and a military life; P. Candidus, a Latin version of Plato's Republic.' Tanner Bib. Mon. 420, 421. De Monte says of

a public record, his poet and orator⁴⁷; and Lydgate prefaces one of his voluminous works, with a panegyric upon him, written during the king's absence on his French coronation, which presents to us the qualities for which, while he was living, the poet found him remarkable, and thought fit to commend him⁴⁸.

of him, 'nothing seem'd pleasant or acceptable to you without reading; nor did you delight only in one art or science but in almost all, and read their MSS. with great avidity.' The duke was fond of astronomy and caused some tables of the planets to be calculated and of the fixed stars. Tann. Ib. In the British Museum, MSS. E. 5, is a work on Scotland, with these words at the end in the duke's hand writing, 'cest livre est a moy Homfrey duc de Gloucestre, le quel j'achetay des executeurs Maistre Thomas Polton feu eveque de Wurcestre.'

⁴⁷ This was Titus Livius, who wrote the life of Henry VI. The grant of denization to him as an Italian, styles him, 'poetæ et oratori of our dearest uncle the duke of Gloucester.' 10 Rym. p. 661. Eneas Sylvius who became a pope, praises the duke for his pursuing the studia humanitatis, summo studio; and adds, 'who, as it has been related to me, patronises poets wonderfully, and highly venerates orators.' Ep. 64.

⁴⁸ These verses are in the MS. 18 D. 4, in the British Museum:

'Eek in this land, I dare affirm a thing.
There is a prince full mighty of puissance;
A kynges son; uncle to the kyng
Henry the Sixte *which is now* in France:
And is leutenant and hath the governance
Of our Bretayne;
He hath conserved in this region,

Durying his tyme, off ful hih prudence
Pes and quiete, and sustened riht;
Yet notwithstanding his noble provydence
He is indeede provyd a godd knyght.
Eied as Argus with reson and forsiht,
Off hih lecture I dar eek off him telle
And truily deeme that he doth excelle

In understanding all other of his age;
And hath gret joie with clerkie to commune;
And no man is more expert off language;
Stable in studie, alwei he doth contune
Settyng aside alle thynges of fortune;
And when he loveth, gif I shall not tarie
Without cause ful loth he is to varie.

Duc off Gloucestre men this prince calle;
And notwithstanding his staat and dignyte,
His corage never doth appalle
To studie in booke of antiquite;
Therein he hath so gret felicite
Vertuousli hymself to occupie,
Off vinous slouth to have the maistrie:

And with his prudence, and wit his manheed
Trouthe to susteyne, he favour set aside
And hooli church menteynyng in deede
As verrai support, upholdere, and eek guyde,
Spareth non, but maketh hymself strong
To punishe alle tho that do the church wrong.

Thus is he both manly, eek wise,
Chose of God to be his owne knyght;
And off o thyng he hath a synglor price
That heretik dar non com in his siht:
In Christes feith he stant so hol upriht
Off hooly church defence and champion,
To chastise alle that do thereto treson.

And to do plesance to our Lord Jhu
He studieth eie to have intelligence:
Heedinge of bookis bringeth in vertu,
Vices excludyng sloathe and negligence
Maketh a prince to have experience
To know hymselfe many sundry wise,
When he trespasseth his errour to chastize.'

After mentioning that the duke had considered the book of Boccasio, on the fall of princes, he adds; 'and he gave me commandment, that I shoulde after my conning this book translate him to do plesance.' MSS. Ib.

HISTORY

OF

ENGLAND.

CHAP. XIII.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE DUKE OF SUFFOLK. HIS
IMPEACHMENT, AND DEATH.BOOK
I.

1447.

THE deaths of Winchester and Gloucester, the avowed favor of the queen, and the acquiescence of Henry, gave to Suffolk the command of the government of the country; but without its good will. The certainty that he had caused the arrest, and the suspicion that he had contrived the murder, of the duke of Gloucester, added to the dislike of his French negotiations, created a public aversion to his administration, which his future conduct increased. Somerset seems to have struggled with him for his power, but to have failed, and to have been too proud to survive his failure.

It was not long before another incident occurred, which again turned the eye of suspicion upon this unprincipled or calumniated nobleman; and with which, from bad judgment if he was innocent; and with a presumptuous short-sightedness if a criminal abettor, he chose to connect himself. As the lord Cromwell, who had been formerly appointed treasurer by Gloucester, was in the star-chamber, with the prime minister and others, one Tailboys came and stationed himself, with several followers, secretly armed, for the

the purpose of assassinating Cromwell, as that nobleman believed and asserted. The man being taken, endeavored to excuse himself, and Suffolk favored his excuses; but Cromwell indicted Tailboys for the meditated violence, and, notwithstanding Suffolk's opposition, proceeded against him till he was fined three thousand pounds, and committed to the Tower. The countenance given by the new duke to this offender led Cromwell to such inferences, that he is declared to have secretly urged the commons to that subsequent impeachment of the minister, which occasioned his destruction¹.

But although thus triumphant and powerful, Suffolk's mind was not tranquil. He still secretly trembled at the possibility of the popular clamor becoming a legal accusation, and he sought to avert this peril by forestalling a legal exoneration. He complained to the king in parliament, that the enemy of civil concord and truth had spread through the island, that he had acted faithlessly to the crown in delivering up Anjou and Maine; and he prayed, that a day and time might be appointed, on which he might vindicate himself from the allegation. The 25th of May, about three months after Gloucester's death, was fixed for this purpose, in the royal palace at Westminster; and the nominated judges were principally his friends. There he attended, and employed his eloquence to show, that he had acted honorably and prudently. He spoke before a favorable tribunal, and he had confined the charge to a defensible point. The king, therefore, issued a judgment, declaring that he was innocent, and that his accusers and slanderers should be punished; and enjoining silence on all persons upon this subject².

In December, the truce was again prolonged³. Powers were,
in

¹ W. Wyr. has preserved this incident. 467, 8. His procuring the pardon of Tailboys, was one of the second list of charges against him. P. Rolls, 5. p. 181.

² Rym. Fed. 11, p. 173.

³ Rym. p. 193. Monstrelet's account of the truce is, that the first expired 1 April 1445. 8, p. 384. That the French ambassadors to England, prolonged it to November 1446. p. 403. And Bishop Moleyns, to 1 April

BOOK

I.

1448.

Character of
Suffolk's ad-
ministration.

in the following January, given to bishop Moleyns, and others, to to negotiate again⁴. The truce was, in April, continued further; and in June, the delivery of the towns in Maine was directed to be completed⁵.

The ministerial conduct of Suffolk is thus unfavorably stated, by an ancient chronicler, who lived at that period "A man of singular cunning, and learned in the art of deceiving, he inclined people to assent to his will. Obtaining the king's confidence and familiarity, and abusing his simplicity, he thought to dispose as he pleased of almost all the business of the kingdom. Hence, conferring bishoprics and royal benefices for money, and casting out and intruding at his own will, he did many things in the kingdom against justice, for his power alone. His presumption advanced so far, that, by fraud or circumvention, he removed from the king's presence all the king's relations and friends, and all the kinsmen of the royal blood, and the prelates, clerks, and laymen⁶." In another passage he adds, "His heart became too much elated, and more and more exalted before his ruin. Perceiving, from the king's having no friends of his own blood near, that his advice was only used, and that he could bend the king's mind as he wished, he introduced some of his own faction into the sovereign's peculiar service, as W. Ascough, the bishop of Salisbury, and lord Saye, who drove away all that strove for the king's grace and presence, without their connivance. Inflamed with an inextinguishable rapacity, they sent round to all the monasteries of the kingdom, collecting gifts and presents for themselves, in the king's name; and they divided among themselves the great sums raised from the tenths and taxes for the royal treasury⁷." These imputations

¹ April 1447. p. 408. It was extended to
¹ April 1449. p. 411. And afterwards to
¹ June 1449, in hopes of effecting a peace.
p. 412. On these see Rymer 11, p. 97, 108,
120, 196, 214, 223.

⁴ Rymer 196.

⁵ Rymer 214, 215.

⁶ Hist. Croyl. 521.

⁷ Hist. Croyl. 525. He subjoins to this, "their dropsical thirst increasing, they gave up the king's foreign castles, towns and possessions for immense sums of gold." *Ib.* Such is the inculcation of Suffolk which the monk has recorded. We cannot now decide on the justice

tions show the nature of the prejudices against his administration. Fabian gives another exciting cause of the disturbances that subsequently arose, in the intimation, that it was from the extraordinary subsidy applied for by Suffolk, to defray the expences of the queen's coming to England, that "he grew into such hatred of the people, that finally it cost him his life⁸." Other grievances or evil measures may put the public mind into an explosive state; but financial impositions are the most perilous agitators.

Suffolk continued for a while to rule as he wished; and the parliament assembled at Westminster in February, to be prorogued to May; and at the end of May, to be deferred again to the middle of June, at Winchester⁹. There the new duke of Somerset, now the chief commander in France, represented, that the final truce with that country would expire in fourteen months; and that the French king was strengthening all his garrisons, and had commanded his nobles to be ready harnessed and armed within fifteen days; and that every thirty men should furnish a man horsed and armed, which would produce 60,000 men. He assured them, that if the threatened war should occur, Normandy was in no wise sufficient to resist it, as no place had been repaired, or provided with artillery; but that every fortress was in a ruinous and indefensible state. He added, that when the three estates in Normandy granted their last aid, they declared, that from the general poverty of the country, no more could be raised. He concluded, by calling to their minds the great, inestimable, and well nigh infinite cost and effusion both of money and blood, which England had borne and suffered for its French conquests; and that "the shameful loss of these would not only be the irreparable hurt of the common profit, but an everlasting spite and perpetual denigration in the fame and renown of this noble realm¹⁰."

1449.
12 Feb.

Somerset
asks for
succors.

This energetic statement produced neither a ministerial nor
a parliamentary

justice of all its imputations; but there is a general veracity in our monkish chroniclers, which intitles their assertions to great respect.

⁸ Fab. 442.

⁹ Rolls Parl. 5, p. 141—3.

¹⁰ Rolls Parl, 5, p. 148.

BOOK

I.

1449.

York accuses
bishop Mo-
leyns.

a parliamentary sympathy. No exertion was made; no supplies were sent. The field was left open for the French monarch to traverse it when he pleased, and to drive us to the sea whenever he should judge it convenient, either to himself or to his English friends, to accomplish this result.

But the duke of York now came forward, to vindicate himself, and to attack the clerical statesman, Moleyns, the bishop of Chichester, who had so long held the privy seal. He charged the prelate with having falsely calumniated him for his conduct, while governor of France and Normandy, as to the administration of the finances, and the payment of the soldiers; and for imputing to him the loss of the French provinces. The minister denied having uttered the words imputed, and declared, that so far from laying the loss of Normandy to any person alive, it was his opinion, that this country was not yet to be despaired of, and ought not to be abandoned¹¹.

A struggle of parties soon ensued in the cabinet itself. Suffolk continued in his elevation; but the two Staffords, the chancellor and the treasurer, were dismissed, to the great displeasure of their brother, the duke of Buckingham. It was the queen's party triumphing over their rivals. York visited the king, and was kindly received; but would have been harshly treated, if Buckingham had not shielded him¹². The parliament that met at Westminster in November, was adjourned, from the allegation of a pestilential sickness, to the Blackfriars at London; and in December, was prorogued to the latter end of January¹³. Moleyns, either from discerning the approach of a political storm, or from really feeling the infirmities that he complained of, obtained leave to withdraw from the cabinet¹⁴; and the new year opened, that

was

¹¹ These articles of accusation are preserved in the Harl. MSS. N° 543.

¹² Fenn's Orig. Letters, Vol. 1, p. 27.

¹³ Rolls Parl. 5, p. 171, 2.

¹⁴ His petition alledged that he was weak in

body and especially in sight; and that he is obliged to attend to his health and must therefore abstain from all temporal business. This was granted, with leave to undertake a pilgrimage for the health of his soul and to take 500 marks with him. 11 Rym. 255.

was destined to be so calamitous to the queen's friends and favorites. The government forbade any to carry arms in London or Middlesex¹⁵; and the duke of Suffolk, alarmed at his own unpopularity, again endeavored to prevent any dangerous impeachment, by inviting it, while he had the power to make it harmless. On the first day of the parliament assembling, he rose in the house of lords, in the presence of the king, and requested them "to admit his supplication and desire, that he might make his declaration of the great infamy and defamation which was said upon him, by many of the people of this land¹⁶."

Having obtained permission, he made the following address:

"Most high and dread sovereign lord!

"I suppose well that it be comen to your ears, to my great heaviness and sorrow, the odious and horrible language that runs through your land, almost in every common's mouth, sounding to my highest charge and most heaviest slander, by a certain confession of the keeper of your privy seal, made at his death, as it is said." He then mentioned his father's services to Henry IV. and to Henry V. in whose army he died at Harfleur; that his eldest brother perished at Agincourt, and two others in battle at Jargeau, "the day that I was taken, as a knight ought to be, I trust, and paid 20,000*l.* to my deliverance. My fourth brother, lying for me in hostage, died in the enemies' land. I was myself armed, in your father's days and your's, thirty-four winters, and have had the garter, thirty. For seventeen years I abode in the wars, without coming home or seeing this land, and have served you since my return, fifteen years." He then emphatically added, "All these things considered, if for a Frenchman's promise I should be either false or untrue to your high estate, or to this your land, that I am born of, there could be no earthly punishment but it would be too little for me¹⁷."

Suffolk's
speech.

Four

¹⁵ Either 'Palettos, loricas, gladios, polaxes, gleyves, or others.' 11 Rym. 262.

¹⁶ Rolls Parl. V. 5, p. 176.

¹⁷ Rolls Parl. p. 176.

BOOK

I.

1450.

26th Jan.

27th Jan.

Four days afterwards, the commons seriously applied to his impeachment, and sent some members to the chancellor, to request, as Suffolk had confessed there was a heavy rumor and noise of slander and infamy upon him, that the king should be informed of it, and the duke be taken into custody. The chancellor asked the lords what was to be done; and they desired the judges to be consulted, who agreed, that as there was no special matter alleged against him, he should not be arrested¹⁸.

On the 28th of January, the lower house, by their speaker, declared, "that the king's poor commons of his realm were as lovingly, as heartily, and as tenderly set to the good, welfare, and prosperity of his person and kingdom, as ever were any commons set to the welfare of their sovereign lord; but that from every part of England there was come a great rumor and fame, that England was to be sold to the King's adversary of France, and his uncle; who were making ready to enter this land, with all their power, with the connivance of the duke of Suffolk; and that this minister had stuffed his castle of Wallingford with guns, gunpowder, and other habiliments of war, to give them a place of refuge and succor." Therefore they requested his committal to the Tower¹⁹.

Notwithstanding the repugnance and influence of the court, this measure was found to be too strongly called for by the feelings of the country to be resisted. He was apprehended; and the commons soon exhibited their bill of impeachment against him.

Suffolk
impeached.

The substance of their charges was, that, on the 20th of July 1447, he had excited and counselled the French ambassadors to persuade their sovereign to invade England, to depose Henry, and to place the duke's son on the throne, whom he had married to the heiress of Somerset, "presuming her to be the next inheritable to the crown²⁰." That he had corruptly advised the release of the duke

¹⁸ Rolls Parl. V. 5, p. 177.

¹⁹ Rolls Parl. p. 177.

²⁰ Suffolk had obtained the wardship and marriage of the daughter of the late duke of

Somerset, the grandson of John of Gaunt, son to Edward III. The articles say, that he united her to his son, pretending that she was the next kin to the crown. Gloucester only preceded

duke of Orleans, and counselled Orleans to excite the French king to continue the war. That, when ambassador, he had promised the queen's father the surrender of Mans and Maine, without the knowledge of the rest of the embassy, which was alleged to be the greatest cause of the loss of Normandy. That he had revealed the state of the armies, towns, and garrisons in France to the enemy, by which Normandy had been lost; and had discovered to the French court the secret of the king's council, as well concerning England, as for the government of Normandy and France. That, being the greatest of the royal council, he had communicated to Charles all the instructions given to the ambassadors from England, before they went into France, which occasioned the truce to have no effect, and all our places to be taken. That, when provision had been made for sending armies to France, he had prevented their passage; and that, in the truce which he made, he did not include either the king of Arragon or duke of Bretagne, our allies, by which the first was become unfriendly, and the latter an enemy. In proof of the traitorous intercourse with the French cabinet, it was also asserted, that he had declared, in the consultation at the star-chamber, that he had his place in the council-house of the French king, as he had in England, and was as well trusted in the one as in the other; and could remove from the service of Charles the priviest man of his council, if he chose²¹.

The bill was read, and the duke was ordered to answer to the accusation; but on the 9th of March, the house of commons presented eighteen further charges against him, which he was brought

preceded her on the Lancastrian side, and she was the line under which her son Henry VII. was invited to and obtained the crown. Hence though the charge strikes us at first sight as strange, yet it may not have been quite frivolous. York's maternal line stood in the way, but the parliament having established the house of Lancaster on the throne, in preference to York's ancestor and right of descent,

this lady was a nearer heir to Henry and therefore to the crown as settled on his family, than any other in England except Gloucester. She was not the nearer heir to Edward III. the common ancestor; but she was so, to Henry VI. the reigning sovereign till his son was born.

²¹ Rolls Parl. 5, p. 177—9.

BOOK

I.

1450.

brought from the Tower to hear read²². He requested a copy of them; and four days afterwards, he was brought before the king and lords; and, kneeling, made his answer. He averred, that the first charge must needs be untrue; it was impossible that he should do so. They who had thus accused him, could not find the means to make it possible. It was against law and reason to make the lady Margaret so near the crown as to support the charge; and he appealed to the lords that they knew, that if the earl of Warwick's daughter had lived, he had selected her to be his son's wife²³.

On the other articles he referred to the official acts of the council, to the statutes made in parliament, and to the king's letters patent for his justification. He had done nothing but what they sanctioned. The other lords of the council had been as privy as he was to the proceedings about Anjou and Mans; and the delivering them up was peculiarly attributable to the late privy seal, the bishop of Chichester. He seemed to be most pressed by the words he was charged to have uttered. He did not actually deny them, but he asserted, that he had not said them in the form specified in the articles, but under other language; and he positively denied their treasonable import²⁴.

17th March.

Eight days afterwards, the king sent for all the lords then in town,

²² The principal of these were, corrupt grants to enrich his own family and others, and to evade the laws; procuring offices for unworthy persons; discovering the councils of the cabinet to the French king; privy communications with his ambassadors; presents to the French queen and counsellors; misemploying subsidies; distributing to himself and friends great part of the 60,000*l.* left in the treasury by Lord Sudeley; taking out of the treasury several of the bonds given for the ransom of the duke of Orleans, and putting in forged ones instead; making sheriffs for lucre; the procuring pardon for the murderer Tailboys, and the obtaining the reversionary grant of the earldom of Pembroke. *Rolls Parl.* V. 5, p. 180, 1.

²³ *Rolls Parl.* 182. He had obtained her wardship; but that he had before her death meant to have married her to his son, was no proof that he did not afterwards conceive the ambitious scheme with his other ward. He did in fact marry her to his son, and by that marriage placed his son close to the throne. It is certainly extraordinary that procuring Gloucester's death was not made one of the charges. But this may have arisen from the impossibility of proving so secret a transaction. The rolls of parliament show that it was imputed to him in after proceedings.

²⁴ *Rolls Parl.* 182.

town, into the inmost chamber of his palace at Westminster. The duke was brought in and knelt down. The chancellor, by the king's command, asked him what he meant to say. The duke answered, that the articles were too horrible to speak more of them; that he trusted he had answered them sufficiently, for he had denied the days, the years, and the places of the alleged communications. They were utterly false and untrue; and in a manner impossible, for such great things could not have been done or brought about by himself alone, unless other persons had contributed their part, and been privy to them as well as himself. He pledged his soul to perpetual damnation, if he knew more of such crimes than the child in the mother's womb; but without departing from his answer, he submitted wholly to the king's rule and governance to do with him as he pleased²⁵.

The chancellor then replied, that as he had not put himself upon his peerage, but had submitted to the royal care, the king had commanded him to say, that as to the first accusation, the duke was neither charged nor delivered, and as to the second, his majesty, by his own advice, and without consulting with the lords, and not pronouncing it in the way of judgment, ordered him to absent himself from England for five years²⁶. The lords entered a protest, that this measure was the king's own determination, and not their advice²⁷. On 19th March the king adjourned the parliament to Leicester, to meet there on the middle of April²⁸.

His exile by
the king.

The duke's unpopularity was so great, that while the government was hesitating on the proceedings against him, insurrections arose in several places, with captains assuming the name of Bluebeard, and other fantastic appellations, but they were vigorously met and suppressed²⁹.

On

²⁵ Rolls Parl. 183.

²⁶ Ibid.

²⁷ Roll. P. 183. A letter in Fenn's collection, dated March 1450, shews how this exile was construed: 'it is said that the duke of Suffolk is pardoned and hath his men again

waiting upon him, and is right well at ease and merry, and is in the king's good grace, and in the good conceit of all the lords as well as ever he was.' V. 1, p. 26.

²⁸ W. Wyr. 469.

²⁹ Fab. 448.

BOOK

I.

1450.

22 April.

On the same night, that the duke left Westminster for Suffolk, a mob of 2,000 people rose in London, and searched about St. Giles for him. They found his horse saddled, and his servant waiting, and treated them cruelly³⁰. But he was himself out of their reach.

While the duke was at his country residence, the parliament, pursuant to its prorogation, met at Leicester. The debts of the crown, which in 1442, were 200,000*l.* had now increased to 362,000*l.*; and the yearly expences of the royal household, exceeded their appropriated funds by 19,000*l.*³¹. The parliament imposed a taxation on all persons having lands, rents, or offices, according to the income received³². But the disastrous tidings that now came from all parts, soon terminated their sittings.

The duke of Suffolk appears to have enjoyed the comfort of his country retirement about a month, and on the 28th of April wrote that admirable letter of moral advice to his son, which makes us regret that ambition should have spoilt a mind so valuable³³. Two days

³⁰ W. Wyr, 468.

³¹ Rolls Parl. 5, p. 183.

³² Rolls P. 5, p. 172, 3. This income tax was sixpence in the pound up to twenty pounds; a shilling from twenty to two hundred, and two shillings beyond that sum.

³³ It is among Fenn's original letters. V. 1, p. 32. 'My dear and only well-beloved son, I beseech our Lord in heaven, the maker of all the world, to bless you, and to send you ever grace to love him, and to dread him; to the which, as far as a father may charge his child, I both charge you, and pray you to set all your spirits and wits to do, and to know his holy laws and commandments, by the which ye shall, with his great mercy, pass all the great tempests and troubles of this wretched world.

'And that, also weetingly, ye do nothing for love nor dread of any earthly creature that should displease him. And there as [when-ever] any frailty maketh you to fall, beseech

his mercy soon to call you to him again with repentance, satisfaction, and contrition of your heart, never more in will to offend him.

'Secondly, next him above all earthly things, to be true liegeman in heart, in will, in thought, in deed, unto the king our alder [greatest] high and dread sovereign lord, to whom both ye and I be so much bound to; charging you as father can and may, rather to die than to be the contrary, or to know any thing that were against the welfare or prosperity of his most royal person; but that as far as your body and life may stretch, ye live and die to defend it, and to let his highness have knowledge thereof in all haste ye can.

'Thirdly, in the same wise, I charge you my dear son, always as ye are bounden by the commandment of God to do, to love, to worship, your lady and mother; and also that ye obey alway her commandments, and to believe her counsels and advices in all your works, the which dread not but shall be best and truest to you. And if any other body would

days afterwards, he assembled the knights and gentlemen of the neighbourhood, and swore to them on the sacrament, that he would prove himself to be free from the imputed treason, and from the sale of Normandy³⁴. He then thought it expedient to leave England, and sailed from Ipswich in the first week of May, with three ships, towards the British channel.

As he came near Dover, he sent his smallest vessel towards Calais, to ascertain the reception he would experience. On 2d May, it was met by a large ship called Nicholas of the Tower, with others, whose commander learnt from it, that the duke of Suffolk was behind. As he came in sight, the captain sent out his boat to question them. The duke himself answered, that he was going by the king's order to Calais. He was told that he must speak with their master. Without hesitation he got into the boat with a few followers, and was towed to the Nicholas, whose master rudely greeted him with "welcome, traitor." His men were asked if they meant to support him, but they readily abandoned him. He was detained two days in the ship, and after confessing with his chaplain, the sailors arraigned him in their own way,

May.
Suffolk is
killed.

would steer you to the contrary, to flee the counsel in any wise, for ye shall find it nought and evil.

' Furthermore, as far as a father may and can, I charge you in any wise to flee the company and counsel of proud men, of covetous men, and of flattering men, the especially and mightily to withstand them, and not to draw nor to meddle with them, with all your might and power; and to draw to you, and to your company, good and virtuous men; and such as be of good conversation, and of truth; and by them ye shall never be deceived nor repent you of.

' Moreover, never follow your own wit in no wise, but in all your works, of such folks as I write of above, ask your advice and counsel, and doing thus, with the mercy of God, ye shall do right well, and live in right much

worship, and great hearts rest and ease. An I will be to you as good lord and father as my heart can think.

' And last of all, as heartily and as lovingly as ever father blessed his child in earth, I give you the blessing of our Lord and of me, which of his infinite mercy increase you in all virtue and good living; and that your blood may by his grace from kindred to kindred multiply in this earth to his service, in such wise as after the departing from this wretched world here, ye and they, may glorify him eternally amongst his angels in heaven.

Written of mine hand,

The day of my departing fro this land.

Your true and loving father,

Suffolk.'

April 28,

1450 H. VI.

³⁴ W. Wyr. 469.

BOOK

I.

1450.

way, upon the impeachment, and found him guilty. The name of the ship brought to his remembrance an idle prediction, and his heart failed him³⁵. He was then drawn out of the ship into a boat. One of the common men ordered him to lay his head down, and he should be fairly dealt with, and die on a sword. After earnest petitions for mercy, and promises of abundant recompense—in vain—he obeyed; and the fellow taking a rusty sword, after half a dozen blows, struck off his head. They took off his russett gear and doublet of mailed velvet; landed, and laid the body on the sands, with his followers unhurt, and his property, and sailed away. The sheriff of Kent hastened to the spot, and watched the body, while his messengers carried the tidings to the judges and the king; and inquired their directions, for his conduct³⁶. His remains were removed to the collegiate church of Wingfield, in Suffolk, and honorably interred³⁷.

Thus perished from the murderous spirit of popular resentment³⁸, a nobleman of some talents, whose domestic virtues might have surrounded his life with happiness as well as honor, if they had been less counteracted by his ambition. Love of power was the bait that lured him to his ruin; and an indifference to the means of acquiring it, and to the consequences of its intemperate exertion produced

³⁵ One Stacey had told him, that if he escaped the dangers of the Tower he should be safe. Having been released from the Tower of London, he thought he was safe, but in the moment of real alarm he suffered the coincidence of this ship's name 'Nicholas of the Tower,' to shake his courage.

³⁶ These particulars are mentioned in a letter written within three days after the duke's murder. 1 Fenn. p. 38—42. The writer feelingly says, 'I have so washed this little bill with sorrowful tears that scarcely ye shall read it.' p. 39. See also Fabian 449, and W. Wyr. 469.

³⁷ Hall, 219.

³⁸ W. Wyrcestre asserts, that the ships which took him were lying in wait for him;

and the Croyland monk, p. 525, that they sailed after him. Others impute the crime to the lords who opposed him, yet the fair import of the facts detailed in the letters of the Paston family, published by Fenn, seems to imply an accidental meeting of the ships, and that the sailors murdered him as others destroyed the bishop at Portsmouth. It is remarkable that Monstrelet calls his destroyers the partizans of the duke of Somerset. 9, p. 116. This has been thought a mistake, but when we recollect that the preceding duke had killed himself from having been disgraced two years before by Suffolk's administration, it becomes difficult amid the numerous enemies he had made, to deny, or affirm of any, that they participated in the crime.

produced a national resentment, which few ministers have incurred without a fatal catastrophe. The lawless mode of his death was calculated to excite a general indignation; but the belief that he had caused the duke of Gloucester's end by violence; prevented any public sympathy for his own³⁹. The foreign disasters of England

³⁹ In the British Museum, Vesp. B. 16, is a ballad written at this time on the catastrophes of Suffolk and his friends. It treats these horrors with an exulting levity which shews the barbarous unfeelingness of political rancor; but it is curious for giving the names of those friends of the government who were most hated by the people. They are the clerical statesmen who were employed either in the offices of government or on its embassies, and it shows how much the dominant church had, by these employments, become identified with the crown. It designates the duke of Suffolk by the cant term 'Jac Napes,' and is perhaps the earliest instance we have of the abusive application of the word Jackanapes. Our Lexicographers derive this word from Jack and ape; but the ballad shews, that napes was a term of derision signifying a knave; and must therefore be the Saxon Cnapa; which bore also this meaning. This will explain the reason why our third figured card is called Jack and also knave. The word Jackanapes therefore seems to be Jack Cnapa, and to mean 'Jack the knave.' In this sense it is applied to Suffolk, and as the knave is next in power at cards to the king and queen, the nickname may be used in the ballad with an allusion to Suffolk's being the prime minister of Henry and Margaret. But as a clergyman only could have introduced so many Latin quotations from the Psalms, we cannot read it without regret that he should have had a heart so un pitying, as to be able to jest with such materials on such a calamity. Yet it is pleasing to feel that no one now in the English church could have written such a composition. Placebo and dirige were part of the chants of the funeral service. Most of the other Latin words are from the penitential Psalms, or from those used in the anthems for the dead.

In the moneth of May, when grass growes grene,

Flagrant in her flowres with swete savour,
Jac Napes wold on the see, a maryner to ben,
With his clogi and his cheyn to seke more tresour.

Swych a payn prikked hym, he asked a confessour,

Nicolas said, 'I am redi, the confessour to be.'
He was holden so, that he ne passed that hour,
For Jac Napes soule, 'placebo et dirige.'

Who shall execute his exequies with a solemnpnite?

Bisshopes and lordes; as grete reson is;
Monkes, chanons, prestes, and other clergie!
Pray for this duke's soule, that it might come to blis.

And let never swych another come after this,
His interfectores blessed might thei be,
And graunte them for ther dede to regne with angeles;

And for Jac Nape soule, 'placebo et dirige.'

'Placebo' begynneth the bisshop of Herford.
'Dilexi, for myn avauncement,' saith the bisshop of Chester.

'Heu me!' saith Salisbury, this goth to farre forthe.

'Ad dominum cum tribulares,' saith the abbot of Glocestre.

'Dominus custodit' saith the abbot of Rouchestre,

'Levam oculos,' saith Frere Stanbury, 'Volavi

'Ei iniquitates,' saith the bisshop of Worcester.

For Jac Nape soule, 'de profundis clamavi.'

'Opera manum tuarum,' saith the cardinal wisely,

That brought forth 'confitebor,' for all this Napes reson,

'Audivi

BOOK

I.

England, began under him at the siege of Orleans; and its domestic calamities, by his unwise, arbitrary, and not disinterested administration.

'Audivi vocem,' songe allmightty God on hye,
And therfore synge we 'magnificat anima
mea dominum.'

Unto this dirige most we gon and come,
This pascall tyme to say veryli.
Thre psalmes and thre lessons that alle is and
some,
For Jac Nape soule, 'placebo et dirige.'

Executors of this office dirige for to synge,
Shall begin the bisshop of Synt Asse,
'Verba mea auribus,' sayth abbot of Redynge,
Alle your joye and hope is come to 'alasse.'

'Comitere Domine,' yet graunte us grace,
Sayth abbot of Synt Albans ful sorely,
The abbot of the Tower-hill *with his fat face*,
Quakes and trembleth for Domine ne in furore.

Maister Waterhard shall synge 'ne quando,'
The abbot of Westmynstre 'Domine Deus
meus in te speravi.'

'Requiem eternam,' graunte them all to
come to,

Therto a pater noster saith the bisshop of
Synt Davy.

For ther soules that wise were and mightty,
Suffolk, Moleyns and Roos thes thre,
And in especial for Jac Napes that ever was
wily,

For his soule, 'placebo et dirige.'

Rise up Say! rede 'Parce mihi Domine,'
'Nichil enim sunt dies mei,' thou shalt synge.
The bisshop of Carlyle synge 'credo' ful sore,
To suych fals traitours come foule endyng.

The baron of Dudley with grete mornyng,
Redeth, 'tedet animam meam vitæ meæ.'
Who but Danyel 'qui lasarum,' shall synge
For Jac Nape soule, 'placebo et dirige.'

John Say redeth 'Manus tuæ fecerunt me.'
'Libera me,' syngeth Trevilian, Warre the
rere,

That thei do no more so 'requiescant in pace,'
Thus preyes all England ferre and nerre.

Where is Somerset, whi aperes he not here,
To synge 'dies iræ et misere?'
God graunte England all in fere,
For these traitours to synge 'placebo et dirige.'

Meny mo that be behinde the sothe for to telle
That shall messes oppon thes do synge,
I pray som may do ryng the belle,
That these forsaiden may come to the sacryng.

And that in bref tyme without more tarienge,
That this messe may be ended in suych degre,
And that all England joyful may synge
The comendacion, with 'placebo et dirige.'

Cott. MSS. Vesp. D. 16.

HISTORY

OF

ENGLAND.

CHAP. XIV.

RENEWAL OF THE WAR IN FRANCE; DISASTERS; TUMULTS
IN ENGLAND; JACK CADE'S INSURRECTION.

CHAP.
XIV.

THE disasters in France, which in 1450, were disturbing the public mind of England, arose from that breach of the truce in 1448, which an officer in the English service, had made by taking the town of Fougères from Bretagne, during the covenanted suspension of arms; and afterwards plundering the adjacent country¹.

The French king complained of the infraction; but though the government of England, and Somerset, its lieutenant in France, disavowed the action, they did not restore the place; and it was afterwards a charge against Somerset, that the violation of the truce was with his privity or procurement. The duke of Bretagne's allies surprized, in retaliation, an English garrison, with lord Fauconbridge, and then proposed an exchange of captures, which the English refused². A bickering state ensued between the forces of the two nations, and some towns were wrested from the English, which the French king would have restored, if Fougères had been given

¹ Monst. 8, p. 428—431. On this event, Fabian remarks, 'of the taking of this town, ensued much harm to the Englishmen; for

this was the occasion, by which, the Frenchmen, after, got all Normandy.' p. 447.

² Ib. p. 437—440.

given up³. But this amicable arrangement was not acceded to, probably from this castle being a frontier place, between Bretagne and Normandy, and therefore deemed essential to the defence of the latter. At a subsequent conference for peace, the French not only demanded this town, but also 1,600,000 crowns for the damages they had sustained; this being immediately disdained, Charles made a protest of all that he had done to maintain peace, and made preparations for that vigorous war⁴, which he soon after declared. The secret expeditions of the English garrisons for dishonorable plunder or revenge, made the hostilities against them popular⁵.

The French gentlemen, and the greater nobility flocked zealously to their sovereign's banners; and August and September 1449, were distinguished by the easy capture, from their overpowering forces, of many towns and fortresses which the English had held⁶. The populace of Rouen wished also to surrender that important city; but though Talbot and Somerset resisted, it was only to agree to a capitulation, afterwards in November, on worse terms⁷. It is with surprize we read, that in such a perilous crisis, when the greatest activity and most determined resistance could alone check the French conquests, Somerset had his wife and children with him in his campaign in this city⁸. Such an attendance implies no intended military vigor, or no competent capacity. He left Rouen for Honfleur, which was besieged in December, and surrendered almost without defence⁹.

A commander

³ Monst. 8, p. 442—4.

⁴ Ib. 445.

⁵ Monst. 9, p. 2, 3.

⁶ Monstrel. V. 9, p. 7—49. The towns were Nogent, Pont Audemer, Verneuil, Mants, Loigny, Anjou, Gournay, in August, and Roche Guyen, Necorp, Harcourt, St. Lo, Carentan, Alençon, Mauleon, Argentan, Fresney, Gisors, Gallon, in September, Conde afterwards. Ib.

⁷ Monst. p. 60—75. This author asserts, that besides evacuating Rouen and making

payments in money, Somerset agreed to give up three castles and three towns for which he gave hostages; but one of these, Honfleur, its governor, refused to surrender. p. 87.

⁸ Monst. p. 73.

⁹ Monst. p. 94. Charles then made preparations to besiege Honfleur. During those at the abbey of Jamieges on the Seine, the celebrated Agnes Sorel met him—but to die. Here this 'fairest of the fair;' 'the lady of beauty,' as she was called from her person and

A commander of some celebrity, Sir Thomas Kerrel, landed with 3,000 new troops from England, and took the field, with a selected army from all the English garrisons; but on 18 April, 1450, was decisively beaten and taken prisoner at Fourmigny¹⁰. This disaster ensured the expulsion of the English from France. Avranches, Bayeux, and other towns in Normandy, were soon taken¹¹, and Caen at last besieged. Such a succession of disgraces excited the highest indignation in all classes in England. No ministers could be in safety after such an accumulation of losses and defeats; especially with the suspicion that they had been wilfully provoked or procured. And the death of Suffolk, instead of appeasing the public indignation, only incited it to demand new victims, and to resort to new outrages.

Two other persons who suffered from this fury of the people, were the bishops of Salisbury and Chichester, the first was murdered by his tenants¹². Adam Moleyns, the other, was a great encourager of literature, but unhappily for himself, the member of an obnoxious administration from which he had just retired. To avoid danger, or to pursue his pilgrimage, he was endeavoring to escape to the continent, when the populace of Portsmouth discovered him, and notwithstanding his age and ecclesiastical dignity, inhumanly destroyed him¹³.

1450, January, June.

To the parliament at Leicester, the great noblemen went armed for their own safety¹⁴, both against the crown and the people, who were clamoring against an administration that was abhorred. No government can continue amid extensive unpopularity, accompanied with averted feeling. It may long despise with safety, the criticism

and from the castle of that name near Paris, which the king had given her, uttering a loud shriek and calling for mercy, expired, on 9 February 1450. *Ib.* p. 99.

¹⁰ *Monst.* 109—113.

¹¹ *Monst.* 117—123.

¹² *W. Wyr.* 470. *Hall*, ch. 223. *Fab.* 453. *Croyl.* 525. He fell 29 June. *Stowe*, 392.

¹³ The record dated at Leicester 30 May 1450, states the bishop as then lately dead. *11 Rym.* 271. But he was killed 9 Jan. st. 387.

¹⁴ Thus the earl of Devon came with 300 men 'well beseen'; and Warwick with above 400. *1 Fenn*, 45. The prorogation had been made on 30 March to assemble at Leicester on 29 April. *5 Rolls Parl.* p. 172.

criticism of the reason, but never the emotions of the hostile sensibility. The dissatisfaction of the country, at the unwise measures of Suffolk and his party, was so great, that men began already to meditate upon a change of dynasty, not from a dislike to the king, but from the impossibility of separating him from the queen, and her friends and faction. The duke of York was the natural choice, if the Lancastrian line, that had been forcibly interposed, were put aside. Hence his friends and favorers, although he was in Ireland, began to talk publicly of his right, his excellent government in France, and his courteous demeanor; dangerous and exciting topics at this critical juncture¹⁵. But while the eastern and western coasts of England were falling into this disaffected state, a formidable insurrection actually burst out in Kent.

The tumultuous assemblage commenced in the beginning of June, during the Whitsuntide week, and John Cade, an Irishman, who assumed the name of Mortimer, and pretended, and was said to be an illegitimate cousin to the duke of York¹⁶, was appointed to be their leader. They published their complaints in a list of fifteen grievances¹⁷.

He

¹⁵ Hall, 219. The duke was himself in Ireland at this time, and there is no evidence that these ideas sprang from him. He was then, as the duke of Orleans has been to the Bourbons, the object to which the discontented naturally looked.

¹⁶ Fab. 449.

¹⁷ Stowe has preserved these both in his Chronicle and in his MS. extracts. Harl. MSS. N°. 545. The substance of them will shew the views of these rioters :

1. That it is openly noised, that Kent shall be destroyed, with a royal power, and made a wild forest, for the death of the duke of Suffolk, of which the commons of Kent were never guilty.

2. The king is stirred to live only on his commons, and other men to have the revenues of the crown.

3. The lords of his blood are put from his

daily presence and other mean persons of lower nature, exalted and made chief of the privy council.

4. People not paid for stuff and purveyance taken to the king's use.

5. The king's menial servants asken daily goods and lands of those impeached and indicted of treason, which the king granteth as soon as the endangered be convicted.

6. Gentiles and the king's menial servants take the poor people's lands, notwithstanding their feoffments and titles.

7. The king's lands in France are aliened and put away fro the crown.

8. Collectors of the fifteenth penny in Kent, are greatly vexed in paying great sums into the exchequer.

9. Sheriffs and undersheriffs let to farm.

10. Simple people that use not hunting are greatly oppressed by indictments.

11. Returning

He arranged the vast multitude into convenient order, and marched to Blackheath¹⁸. Having served in the French wars, he was able to encamp them with some military skill, and had trenches made with infixed pales for their defence¹⁹. Here he prepared and presented his petitions to the king, stating the injuries and oppressions of which the people complained²⁰. Government determining on an immediate resistance, the parliament at Leicester was dissolved; and the king hastening to London, collected near Smithfield an army of 20,000 men, and with these advanced against the rebels²¹. Cade apprized of his approach, retreated

at

11. Returning names of inquests not summoned and warned.

12. Ministers of the court of Dover, vex and arrest out of their bounds.

13. People of Kent not suffered to have free election of their knights of the shire, but letters have been sent to the great rulers forcing them to chuse other persons than the commons wished.

14. That the knight of the shire should chuse the king's collectors indifferently without taking bribes, but the collector's offices are bought and sold extortiously at the knight's cost.

15. People are sore vexed in costs and labours by being called to the sessions of peace from the farthest and uttermost parts of the waste, which compel some men to five days journeying; they desire the size to be divided into two parts.

¹⁸ Fab. 449. W. Wyr dates the insurrection about the 7 June. p. 477.

¹⁹ Hist. Croyl. 526.

²⁰ Fab. 449. Besides the general complaints already cited, Cade gave in his own memorial which Stowe has also copied. We add a summary of these; they express great personal loyalty to the king.

‘Imprimis, desireth the said capitayn of the commons:

1. The welfare of the king and his true lords temporal and spiritual, and of all true lords of his council; he to take all his des-

mesnes that he may reign like a king royal according as he is born our christen king anointed, and who so will say the contrary, we all will live and die in the same quarrel as his true liegemen.

2. Desireth—That he will avoid all the false progeny and affinity of the duke of Suffolk, and to take about his person his true lords: that is, York, lately exiled from him by Suffolk, and the mighty princes and dukes of Exeter, Buckingham, and Norfolk, and all the earls and barons of the land; and then shall he be the richest king christian.

3. Punishment of the false traitors who imagined Gloucester's death. He was proclaimed traitor; on the which quarrel we purpose to live and dye that it is false.

4. The realm of France, the dutchies of Normandy, Gascony, Guienne, Anjou, and Maine were delivered and lost by means of the said traitors.

5. That all the extortions used daily among the common people be laid down; that is, the green wax so falsely used to the perpetual destruction of the commons of Kent; also, the King's Bench so greeveful to the shire of Kent; also, the taking of wheat and other grains, beef, mutton, and all other victuals, which is importable to the said commons; also, the statute of labourers and the great extortioners and false traitors Slegge, Crowmer, Isle, and Rob. Este.' Stowe, Ch. 389.

²¹ W. Wyr. 470

at midnight to Sevenoaks, on the seventh day of his encampment²² and there embattled his followers. Sir Humphrey Stafford and his brother, believing that they were flying, set out with a small party to pursue. Cade encouraged his men to stand the attack, and after a sharp conflict, the Staffords were defeated and killed²³.

The king's council was, during this incident, discussing the demands of Cade, which some supported. The disaster of the Staffords occasioned a bolder expression of sentiment, and as it was intimated, that unless lord Say and others were committed to custody, those would join Cade who thought these ministers had injured the country, it was deemed prudent to send the arraigned persons to the Tower; and the royal army then returned to London and dispersed²⁴.

Cade, after his victory, put on the coat of mail, with the gilt nails and the gilt spurs of the knight he had slain, and resumed his camp at Blackheath on the 29th June²⁵. There the archbishop of Canterbury and duke of Buckingham, had long communications with him, and found him a man of no common understanding. He refused to lay down his arms, and insisted upon his terms, and the lords finding the attachment of their own followers not to be depended

²² Fab. 449. The ancient memorandum in Fenn, V. 1, p. 61, marks the 22 June as the day of Cade's retreat. Sir J. Fenn had not observed that Cade made this retrograde motion before his subsequent successes.

²³ W. Wyr. 470. Fab. 449. 'All which season the king's host lay still upon Blackheath; being among them sundry opinions, so that some and many favored the captain.' Fab. Ib.

²⁴ Fab. 449. W. Wyr. 470. 'The lords fearing their own servants lest they would take the captain's party.' Fab. 450. 'The king, doubting as much his familiar servants, as his unknown subjects, which spared not to speak, that the captain's cause was profitable for the common-wealth.' Hall, p. 221.

²⁵ Among Fenn's letters is one from Payn, whom his master, Sir John Falstaff, sent from

his house in Southwark to get from the rebels the articles they wanted. He says, 'so soon as I came to the Blackheath, the captain made the commons to take me, and I was brought forthwith before the captain of Kent. He demanded of me what was my cause of coming thither.' Finding that he came from Falstaff, Cade cried treason, and had it proclaimed that he came to espy their puissance from the greatest traitor in England; 'therefore he said plainly that I should lose my head, and so I was taken and led to the captain's tent, and one axe and one block was brought forth to have smitten off my head. Then master Poynings your brother with others of my friends came and said that there should die an hundred or two in case I died; and so by that means, my life was saved at that time.' 1 Fenn's Letters, p. 57, 59.

depended upon, removed from London to Killingworth, to keep them from joining the revolt²⁶.

CHAP.
XIV.

London was now left defenceless, except that lord Seales was appointed to guard the Tower; and Cade thus encouraged, after beheading one of his officers for disobedience to his orders, on the 1st of July marched from Blackheath to Southwark, and slept there. On the same day, an insurrectionary multitude arrived at Mile-end from Essex²⁷, to reinforce the Kentish insurgents.

Cade was not only supported by the general feeling of the people, but also by some of the superior classes. Besides those in the king's council, who enforced some of his demands, the duke of Exeter's herald and a gentleman of Norfolk, are mentioned as acting in his mob²⁸; and at the common council, convened by the mayor of London, some advised the admission of the rebels into the city; and when an alderman opposed this approving measure, he was taken into custody²⁹. The gates were opened to Cade. He hewed with his sword the ropes which upheld the drawbridge, to prevent deceit. He caused proclamations to be made in many parts in the king's name, that none on pain of death, should take any thing without paying for it. He rode through the streets, struck the old London stone with his sword, exclaiming, "now is Mortymer lord of this city," and after arranging with the mayor for the disposition of his followers, he returned to Southwark³⁰.

On 3d July he entered the city again; sent for lord Say from the Tower, and had him arraigned at the Guildhall before the mayor and other justices. Say claimed to be judged by his peers. Hearing this demand, Cade sent a body of men who brought him by force to the standard in Cheapside, where they struck off his head and placed it on a long pole. At Mile-end, Crowmer his son-in-law the sheriff of Kent, was also beheaded as one of the extortioners complained

²⁶ Fab. 450. W. Wyr. 470.

²⁷ Fab. 450.

²⁸ Payne's letter. 1 Fenn. 57. This letter

gives a full detail of Cade's pillaging the writer's apartments in Southwark. p. 61.

²⁹ Fab. 450.

³⁰ Fab. 451.

BOOK.

I.

1450.

8th July.

complained of, and their heads were carried about in all the savage frenzy of mob-exultation³¹.

The city had up to this time favored them, but their first atrocities exciting an appetite for more, they began to plunder some of the citizens houses, and Cade even robbed where he had dined. This pleased the lowest orders, but alarmed the rest, and though it is intimated by the ancient chronicler of the city, that if Cade had not robbed, and had intended well, he might have brought his purpose to good effect; yet the respectable inhabitants, who desired the reformation of others, but not the pillage of themselves, dreading a general plunder, resolved to drive him out of London³². They privately armed; concerted measures with the king's forces in the Tower, and, as it became dark, made a powerful attack on the main body of the rebel host, which was posted on the bridge. The struggle was obstinate, and lasted all night, with varying fortune. Many fell on both sides; but the position was at length forced, and Cade retreated³³.

The next day, some of the ministers held a conference with Cade at St. Margaret's church, and received the statement of his complaints. They delivered to him the king's pardon, for himself and his adherents, on the 9th of July, and he retired the same day to Dartmouth, and thence to Rochester. At Rochester, where he remained two days, his multitude began to quarrel about the booty they had taken; and which, having caused their defeat, now happily produced their dispersion. Cade, despairing of

³¹ Fab. Ib. Stowe has transmitted to us in his MS. extracts and chronicle, one of Cade's arbitrary mandates for supplies; it is to Thomas Cooke in London, 'ye shall charge all lumbarde and strangers being merchants, Genoese, Venetians, Florentines, and others, *this day* to draw them together, and do ordain for us, 12 harness complete of the best fashion, 24 brigandynes, 12 battle axes, 12 gloves, 6 horses with saddles and bridles, and 1,000 marks of ready money; and if this our demand be not observed, we shall have the heads

of as many as we can get of them.' Harl. MSS. 545. Chron. 388.

³² Fab. 452. Croyl. 526.

³³ Fab. 452. W. Wyr. 471. The letter written in Fenn, 1, p. 61, mentions this conflict, 'I was put up till the night that the battle was at London bridge; and then at night the captain put me out into the battle at the bridge, and there I was wounded and hurt near hand to death and there I was six hours in the battle.'

of further unity and success, mounted his horse, and left them. A proclamation of one thousand marks, to all who would take him alive or dead, immediately pursued him³⁴. The new sheriff of Kent, with others, followed his track, overtook him in an orchard, and slew him³⁵, hopeless of mercy, and therefore desperate of life. His body was brought to London, and his head was placed on the bridge³⁶. All the rebels retired home, as privately as they could; but some were selected, seized, and punished³⁷.

In these tumultuary proceedings, the four most obnoxious ministers, Suffolk, Say, and the prelates of Chichester and Salisbury, had perished; and if the revolt had arisen only from personal causes, the triumph of government would have made its future course tranquil and strong. But the moral causes of these movements continuing to agitate the public mind, the repression of that wild fury of the populace which benefited no one, produced no domestic peace. The old system of administration was persevered in, under new leaders; and its opponents perceiving, from the insurrections, a certainty of great popular support, prepared to begin that direct struggle for the possession of the government of the country, which produced the most destructive civil war that England has at any time experienced.

That Englishmen in general were speaking ill of their sovereign, and, by their bad language, seemed disposed to do him every outrage, and were debating who should be their king; and that Henry

³⁴ Stowe has preserved this. It recites that 'Cade was born in Ireland, had the year preceding lived in Sussex with Sir Thomas Dagre; had there slain a woman with child and had fled to a church for safety and afterwards went abroad. That for years before this he had joined the French party and dwelt with them, and now came to England to enrich himself with robbing and despoiling the king's liege men.' Harl. MSS. 545. and Chron. 391. It is dated 10 July 1450.

³⁵ Rymer's *Federa* contains the order on

the exchequer, dated 15 July, for the 1,000 marks to Alexander Iden, and the others with him who had brought the body of Cade, 11. p. 275.

³⁶ Wyr. 472. Fab. 453. As he was afterwards attainted, his goods and lands declared forfeited, and his blood corrupted by act of parliament, which gives some material dates. Rolls Parl. V. 5, 224; he seems not to have been a common man.

³⁷ Fab. 453.

BOOK

I.

1450.

Henry was existing in a very doubtful balance of public opinion, at this period, are the observations of the duke of Orleans, who did not leave England till these angry feelings had begun³⁶. Yet Henry was himself never personally unpopular; it was the administration of the queen, of the cardinal, and her ecclesiastical ministry; of their pupil or creature the duke of Suffolk, and afterwards of Somerset, and the new favorites who succeeded to the same principles, and pursued the same measures, which put the crown into this peril; and finally shook it from the head of this good, mild, virtuous, religious, unoffending; but governed, and badly-governed, because wife-governed, church-governed, favorite-governed, and selfish-courtier-governed, king. The direction and counsels of an intelligent woman would have added credit to his reign; but Margaret allied herself with a party, and was ruled by favorites of inadequate worth and capacity. They misgoverned her, and she misgoverned him; and all of them misgoverned the country.

In every European monarchy, the great aristocracies of birth, talent, and property, sometimes directly, oftener insensibly, but always powerfully, influence, control, and shape the conduct of the government. Their aim, with a certain regard to their own interests as individuals, is usually the public good; because reason naturally loves what is best, and pursues, as far as it can discern it; and what is most profitable for all, is ultimately most beneficial to each. Wise sovereigns act on the same principles; and then, between the crown on an able head, and the most improved part of the community, there is an harmony of feeling, and a coalition of action, which produce a peaceful and distinguished reign. An intelligent minister, by pursuing the same system, creates the same results, if the royal capacity be, as in Henry VI. in an infirm state; but weak sovereigns have usually been remarkable for breaking this natural link between the royal mind, and the intellect, feeling, wealth, and nobility of the country. Inferior and inexperienced

³⁶ See the last stanza but one in his ballad, inserted before in this volume p. 133.

perienced persons get into their confidence, produce, for their own purposes, a jealousy of the aristocracy and property of the country, and by selful rapacity, ambition, impatience, and misgovernment, plunge the crown into a state of irretrievable unpopularity with all classes of its subjects.

That the queen's father should advise her not to suffer herself and the king to be the wards of others³⁹, came too late to do good, and operated only to do mischief. The ecclesiastical statesmen, as we have already seen, had made the king their dependant ward, and had excluded him from that active share of efficient government which would have educated him to have governed better. He was already in their wardship when Margaret came; and the question for her to decide was, whether she would end that state of subservient pupillage which had broken his spirit, weakened his mind, and made him ignorant of all state affairs, and therefore averse from them; and by connecting him more generally and liberally with his nobility, and with the intellectual classes of his kingdom, have made his name loved, and his reign honored: or become herself his political duenna, and the actual sovereign of the country, by a degrading and unwise combination with the very persons who had debilitated her husband, and were uprooting his popularity. She preferred to make the ministers her minions, and to join those she ought to have removed, and to begin a steady and haughty warfare against the nobility and constitution of the country, that the arbitrary power of the crown, and of her favorites, might be established.

All that has survived to us of the complaints of the nation, at this time, converge to these points. Gloucester's last memorial against Winchester; the papers of the insurrectionists under Cade; the private correspondence of the Paston family; the records of parliament; the public papers of the Warwick and Yorkist party; and the narratives and remarks of our old chroniclers, show, that the

³⁹ See before p. 148.

the circumstances we have lamented were among the most active causes of the sanguinary distractions of the country. The queen and her favorites, like Edward II. pitched the crown against the nobility, law, and constitution of the country, and produced the hurricanes that injured all.

The remarks of an Oxford chancellor who lived at this period, and died before the deposition of Henry, may be cited as the evidence of an intelligent contemporary, of the real or imputed misconduct of the queen's administration⁴⁰.

In one passage, Dr. Gascoigne informs us, that the pulpit itself had been directed against government. "The bad lords and bishops, in 1449 and 1450, declared, that the preachers of the word of God disturbed the people, and caused insurrections. Yet these preachers were men famous in life and science, and only preached against vices and sins, and against the insatiable cupidity of the king's council, and of the bishops and others, and against the deficiency of public justice, and against the promotion of the very worst persons in the church and public offices. And because they preached against these evils, which were sufficient to disturb the kingdom, and deserved the divine punishment, they were called 'disturbers,' by those who supported the king, and by various bishops. Their reproachers said, 'Thou hast disturbed England, and vexed divers persons by the evils thou hast caused'⁴¹."

In another part he mentions, that in 1450, and before, "Many persons told Henry VI. that famous preachers, doctors, by their preaching against the sins used in his privy council, caused insurrections among the people against him. Yet the public injuries, and the annual taxes and tithes, and the alienation of the goods of the crown, and the want of justice from the judges of the church and kingdom, were so manifest, and so numerous, that if these preachers wished

⁴⁰ This is the same MS. work which we have before cited, c. 11. p. 141. As I have not had an opportunity of consulting the MS. at Oxford; I quote the MS. excerpts from it by

R. James, in the Cotton library, Vitell. c. 9. Dr. Gascoigne died in 1459.

⁴¹ MSS. Vitell. c. 9, p. 155, referring to Gascoigne's MS. p. 578.

wished to have been silent, the very stones, that is, the popular multitude, would have cried out⁴²."

It seems, that sermons to this purport were sometimes addressed to the king himself; for the doctor mentions, that "Lord Say, with others, would not suffer any one to preach before the king, unless they saw his written sermon first, or unless he would swear not to preach against his ministers' actions or councils⁴³."

He expressly declares, that the insurrections in 1450 were directed against the church, as well as the government. After mentioning, that Reginald Peacock, whom the duke of Suffolk promoted to the mitre, publicly taught, that bishops were not bound to preach because they were bishops; and that all the bishops of England favored, or did not oppose him; Gascoigne adds, "and immediately afterwards, insurrections overflowed against the church, and against the king of England, by thousands of men, who said, 'The ecclesiastics destroy us; they live luxuriously on their property, while we are perishing with want; and they have destroyed the king by their flattery, or silence.' This was the public voice; and the duke of Suffolk, bishop of Salisbury, and lord Say, were killed by the common people, in 1450⁴⁴."

Other paragraphs aver the same facts. "From the time the bishop favored Peacock, then in the see of St. Asaph, for preaching that bishops were not bound to preach because they were bishops, and that they did not sin in giving annates, or first fruits, to the pope, many rose up in insurrection, spoiling and killing several persons, and speaking the worst things of the clergy who live on the goods of the church. Thus the insurgents said, 'The pluralities of churches, the appropriations in the monasteries and collegiate churches, the non-residence of prelates and rectors in their cures, and

⁴² MS. Vitel. p. 156. Gasc. MS. p. 507, he gives the names of some of those preachers. The most famed ones were G. Wurthyngton, rector of St. Andrews, Holborn; W. Lythfield, rector of All Saints, London. Magister Petrus de Beverley, alias

Herforth; some doctors of reputation for their lives and knowledge at Cambridge, and Dr. Th. Eburhall, of Oxford, then master of the College of Wyttington.' MSS. ib.

⁴³ MS. Vitel. p. 157.

⁴⁴ MS. Vitel. p. 156. Gasc. MSS. 507.

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and the unworthy promotion of immoral young men in the church, whom I myself knew to be unable to pronounce Latin, and who did not even receive their own revenues, but sent their servants to take and spend them: these evils, and the famous proclamantes, destroy the good government of the church, and of souls⁴⁵.” He adds, with an angry feeling, but with a foresight of consequences which events soon proved to be sagacious: “Bishops now do not preach, either vocally or by example; but God will himself preach in action, by bringing on them, and other offenders, heavy punishments⁴⁶.” His displeasure that the prelates forsook the pulpits seems to have arisen from a perception, that the new neglect arose from luxurious indolence, and was producing that public obloquy, against which no power can stand.

The public objections to the conduct of government.

Dr. Gascoigne gives us some important information, as to the vicious system of government then pursued by its ministers; or, at least, as to the popular belief and complaint of it.

1st. As to their management of parliaments, to compel the unwilling commons to grant subsidies:

After remarking, that they and the courtiers lived on royal grants, and on the taxes raised from the people, and on the tenths granted by the clergy, he proceeds; “They cause the king to appoint the parliaments to meet in small cities, remote from the confines of the kingdom, that from want of good house-room and victuals, few may attend; and that lawyers might be absent who would advise the commons; and they so prorogue parliament, and so long keep it continuing, that by their great and daily expences, the poor members of the commons, who remain there, may be compelled to grant what the king desires, however wrong and destructive to the kingdom it may be. And the root of this evil, is the avarice of those who hold the superior offices in the realm⁴⁷.”

2d.

⁴⁵ MS. Vitell. p. 157.

⁴⁶ MS. Vit. ib.

⁴⁷ MS. Vit. ib. 155. Gasc. MSS. 578.

2d. He exhibits the Suffolk ministry as enriching themselves with the public money.

“The new counsellors of the king are very greedy, and care not what they do, if they can obtain honors and worldly affluence. They have enriched themselves, and by their assenting have so acted, that the king has given away to others, and their heirs, all the crown revenues. Hence he has not the means of living, unless by the parliamentary subsidies; and although he owes 1,500,000*l.* he has nothing by which he can pay the debt.

“Yet these counsellors, whom he has made lords, out of boys, advise earnestly the king not to resume his grants, though the parliament has strongly petitioned him to do so. But these bad advisers tell him, that it would be a great disgrace and evil to make this resumption. Therefore he will not comply with the wishes of the parliament, though he has no livelihood nor fund to discharge his debts, but what he can collect from the people.

“If the king ever becomes angry with any of his servants for detected falsehood, he forgets the fault the next day, and praises and obeys the false counsellor, as if he had never done wrong⁴⁸.”

These

⁴⁸ MS. Vit. p. 155. Gasc. MS. 579. It may be interesting to add his account of Cade's insurrection, as it was written at or near the time of its occurrence. During the parliament at Leicester, the commonalty of Kent, rose up, and called themselves the public seekers to do public justice, and the proclaimers of their own, and the kingdom's injury. While these were insurgent, the parliament ended, which had been long continued at London and Leicester, that the commons, weighed down by expences and labours might consent to certain requests of the king, and to certain taxes which he asked; but these *were not* granted; for it was said, publicly, that unless the commons consented to the proposed articles, the parliament should not finish. But the commons of that parliament, endured more threats from the king

and from his *young* counsellors. They were commanded by the king to proceed with the articles, which were to provide money to defend Normandy; and that they should not intermeddle with the actions of the king and his lords. But this parliament, though daily harrassed by expences and labours, yet said openly, that they would *never* grant a tax to the king, till he resumed all the appurtenances to his crown, which he had alienated. Before the complete decision of these, the commons of Kent rose up under their captain *John Cade*, a bastard, descended from Roger Mortimer. He, after the king's pardon to *him*, and his, betrayed by one of his servants, as it is said, was mortally wounded, and brought dead to London, in July 1450; and in that month and year, the English were expelled from Normandy.

These remarks display the strong feeling of a person dissatisfied with the measures of the Suffolk administration; but being penned at the time, they exhibit the sentiments by which, those, who were discontented with the government, were influenced in their opposition to it⁴⁹.

The death of Cade and the ministers did not immediately tranquillize the nation. The public mind continued to be turbulent; and foreseeing men must have looked forward to an agitated futurity⁵⁰. But as the remarks of the Oxford chancellor imply, that oppositions to the ecclesiastical state and system of conduct, were among the disturbing forces that acted on the country, this important subject may next claim our careful consideration.

⁴⁹ Dr. Gascoigne, under the word 'Promotio,' in his dictionary, and in a note, in calce Cod. Bodl. NE. A 5. 1, gives this account of himself. After mentioning, that he had a prebend of eight marks in the cathedral of Welles, he says, 'Cardinal Kemp gave me a collation to the chancellorship of York, but I never had it. In 1445, I was appointed rector of St. Peter Cornhill. The lord mayor and alderman gave me the living, and, though infirm, I accepted their presentation, hoping to be well soon, and to reside there in person, and to fulfil the duty of a pastor, or else meaning to resign. But my infirmity continuing, so that I could not hasten thither from Oxford, I, R. Gascoigne, Dr. Theol. and chancellor of Oxford, gave in my resignation. For St. Edmund, archbishop of Canterbury, never held any living unless he could personally reside there. Alas! alas! the absence of a good pastor makes and causes many evils, as that of a pilot from a ship.' Under 'Peccatum,' he mentions, 'I resigned, of my own accord, my only rec-

tory of Dighton to Dr. Th. Eborall, because he was more fit than myself to travel and preach in our diocese of York.' He died 13 March 1450. Tanner Bib. Monast. 311. His Dictionarium is in Coll. Linc. Oxford, in two large volumes.

⁵⁰ In August 1450, a person writes, 'Lord Moleyns had sore labored in his country to appease and still the people there, to restrain them from rising; and so he was daily labouring thereabouts in the king's service.' He also mentions a report, that 9 or 10,000 men were up in Wiltshire. Fenn, V. 91. In October, Sir John Falstoffs wrote to the king, that Suffolk stood right wildly, p. 99; and lord Oxford, in the following winter, reminds the sheriff of Norfolk, 'what indisposition the commons of both countries were of, in the end of last summer.' P. 107. But he adds, what proves that the public complained of real grievances, 'I were loath to labour further, unless the commons should be eased, as God's law would.' Ib.

HISTORY

OF

ENGLAND.

CHAP. XV.

REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE ENGLISH PAPAL HIERARCHY
AT THIS PERIOD. THE DIFFERENT ATTACKS MADE UPON
IT; THE REFORMATIONS URGED; AND ITS RETALIATED
HOSTILITIES, AND PERSECUTIONS ON THOSE WHO CRI-
TICIZED AND OPPOSED IT.

IN our preceding volume, some of the attacks were alluded to, which were made on the papal church establishment in England, in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries¹. But the church, at that time, possessed above half the knights fees; that is, of the great landed property, and military tenures of England, besides tithes and personal goods, official dues, and perpetual benefactions². Hence as they had larger power in the state, and greater wealth than any other single order of the community, and were superior to either the king, or the aristocracy, taken separately, they were not to be shaken, if at all, without a convulsion of the whole country. They saw and felt the danger that had arisen to them, from the union of the crown and nobility, under the reigns of Edward III. and Richard II.; and to prevent its continuance,

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¹ Hist. Engl. V. 2, p. 371—432.

² The knights fees were 53,215. And of these the clergy held 28,000. Ib. p. 413.

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continuance, made that alliance with the house of Lancaster, which deposed Richard; and under Henry IV., Henry V., and Henry VI., enabled them to pursue a system of persecution, imprisonment, and burning, that kept all reformation at bay till the reign of Henry VIII.; but which contributed materially to the civil wars between the Yorkists and the Lancastrians, by supplying continually the fuel of discontent. As this important period of our history, has not been contemplated with these considerations; and we have now approached the time, when the dismal contests began, it will be useful to take a concise view of the state of warfare, into which the mind of the country became agitated against what was called in that day the *possessed* church; the church, with its legal and established property, and pecuniary rights; of the attacks which were made resolutely upon it from various quarters; and of its own, as determined, and vindictive efforts in its defence. When the facts which we shall notice, are duly weighed, it will surprise no one, that the civil wars, which spilt so much English blood in the reigns of Henry VI. and Edward IV., should have occurred. We shall feel, that our ancestors were not absurd enough to sacrifice life and comfort, to determine whether one descendant of Edward III., or another, had the best of two remote and doubtful rights to the crown. The cause which gave them supporters, and furnished so much supplies to the civil war, was that collision between the great contending interests in the country, which, at this time, were existing in active and irreconcilable hostility; and which, from the sacrifices of pride, power, influence, and property, that each had to submit to before either could be at peace, no other decision than that of the sword, could ultimately terminate. The sword was fiercely called in by both the antagonist parties, to contest and determine the mighty questions. Its first operations were to change the dynasty of the crown, though not the monarchical constitution; and to strike down the great nobility of the country. The church survived

survived to enjoy the temporary victory, but only to fall itself when its own triumph united the crown, the subdued aristocracy, and the resenting people against it, under that monarch, who, after obtaining at first the title of its defender, consented to its spoil and overthrow, as soon as his own passions could be made to concur with the general feeling and long cherished wishes of the majority of his nation³.

It was the property and conduct of the clergy, which constituted their real danger. The ambition, pride, and luxury of their prelates, fixed the eye of angry criticism on their envied opulence, and on its abuse; and roused both avarice and reason to dispossess them of it⁴.

These hostile feelings were planting themselves deeply in the bosom of the thinking public, in the beginning of the fourteenth century. W. Occam, an Englishman, one of the great doctors of the schoolmen, displays them in his dialogue, between a knight and an ecclesiastic, written at that time⁵. The latter begins with complaining, how much the rights of the church were invaded, and what wrong the clergy endured against all law. To the knight's question, "what law?" the other answers, the ordinances of the popes, and the decrees of the fathers. The knight allows, that these may be authorities to the clergy, but not to the laity; and intimates, that he had therefore laughed, when Pope Boniface VIII. had, by a new statute then lately made, declared himself to be above all secular princes and kingdoms. He admits, that they who conduct the worship of the deity, should have every necessary; but no temporal kingdom or lordships; and reminds his

³ Spain appears to be now in a state something similar to what England was in the fifteenth century. Her clergy, when her late commotions began, enjoyed above half the property of the country; and are waging the same conflict in it, through which our ancestors had to pass.

⁴ See the remarks and quotations in Hist. Engl. V. 2, p. 406—8.

⁵ About 1305. It is intitled, 'Disputatio super potestate prelati ecclesiæ atque principibus terræ commissæ.' And is printed in Goldasti Monarchica. He was a scholar of our Duns Scotus. An old English translation of his work was published, from which Oldys gives some important extracts in his British Librarian, p. 5.

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his opponent, that our Saviour and St. Paul, compares his order to workmen, to hired persons, and to labouring oxen; and that these are not lords of things⁶. He expresses broadly his own conviction, that they were only upheld by the royal power. "If the authority of the king were to fail you, what would be your repose? would not the poor and prodigal nobles, if they should consume their own property, turn to yours? therefore the royal hands are your bulwark: the king's peace is your peace; the king's safety is your safety." With a sarcasm on both themselves, and their supporters, he adds: "It is because kings and princes, at their own expence and dangers, defend you and expose themselves gratuitously to death for your sake; that you repose under your shades, eat splendidly, drink joyously, lie down on ornamented beds, sleep quietly, and wanton with soft instruments of music. You, therefore, are the only lords. The kings and princes are but your servants⁷." When the clergyman claims what he possesses, as the property of God⁸, and accuses the layman of meaning to invade that, he answers, "we mean not to revoke what was given to the Supreme, but to apply it to those uses for which the gift was made⁹." The churchman desires him to leave them in peace. "No," exclaims the knight, "we are to see the wills of our forefathers fulfilled, who gave these temporalities so plentifully, that you should dispose of them to charitable purposes; to the health of our souls; to the honor of God; to praying for the dead; and to relieving the wants of the living." He reminds him again, that they are spending their wealth in sinful deeds and vanity, instead of distributing it in acts of mercy to the poor, to the sick, the diseased, and the oppressed; and adds this emphatic warning, "and if ye do not so, THEN MUST WE HAVE TO DO THEREWITH¹⁰."

⁶ Occam's Dial. Oldys Brit. Lib. p. 7.

⁷ Occ. Disp. Gold. Mon. p. 16.

⁸ This title was early given to church possessions, with great ingenuity. In the most

The ancient Anglo-Saxon law that was made, they are called 'Godes feoh.' Wilk. Leg. Sax. p. 1.

⁹ Gold. p. 16.

¹⁰ Oldys, p. 8. Oldys has remarked, that Occam

The clergy did not lessen their splendor and enjoyments; and the gentlemen of England became more eager for their possessions. The knights were afterwards classed with the lollards for their hostility against the monastic orders¹¹.

The government was interested to countenance the pomp and worldly expenditure of the church, because it added to the state of the court; and lessened the consequence, means, and popularity of an order that then wanted to tower above all others. But from the constitution of the English parliament, the command of the legislation of the country was connected with the possession of its landed property. Hence to prevent this from being gradually absorbed by the growing opulence of the church, the acts, called the Statutes of Mortmain, were passed under one of our most sagacious kings, which made void all future donations to them of landed property¹². These enactments precluded any further territorial aggrandizement. But the pious feelings of the truly religious, and the anxieties of those who wished to atone for the possession and abuse of every earthly good; or to secure the next world, after the full enjoyment of the present, still continued to pour their disposable affluence on the church. That property thus bestowed, ensures heaven to the bestower, has been not only the doctrine, but also the belief of many sacerdotal establishments in every age and country of the world; and will be so while property exists, and state and luxury are valued¹³. Hence the clergy, in some or other of their branches,

Occam attacked vigorously John XXIII, and gave a mortal wound to the pope's temporal power over princes. He obtained a protector in Louis of Bavaria. The pope excommunicated him, and he was condemned at Paris for an heretic, and his books were burnt. Luther was familiar with his works. He was the only schoolman whom this reformer valued. Oldys, p. 5.

¹¹ Thus a MS. in the Cotton library, has '*ad verecundiam lollardorum presentis temporis et militum detrahentium, qui satis infesti sunt, his diebus, ordini monachorum.*' MS. Claud. E. 4, p. 330.

¹² Stat. 7 Edw. I; 13 Ed. I, c. 32; and 15 R. II, c. 5. An exception was made in favor of the crown, by 18. E. III, st. 3, c. 3; which has been finally adjusted by 7 and 8 Will. III, c. 37.

¹³ That the clergy did not hypocritically teach the duty or efficacy of testamentary distributions for pious uses, but themselves really believed and felt what they taught, we perceive by their own wills and conduct. The cardinal of Winchester, begins his will, by stating, that he desires to transmute his terrestrial goods into heavenly ones, and to dispose

branches, continued to increase in wealth and in its display, while the censorious and craving rapacity of the laity, as steadily followed its expected prey¹⁴.

The danger which always impended over the crown, from a proud, jealous, vindictive, insubordinate, independant, warlike, high-spirited, self-estimating, powerful, and irritable nobility, usually kept the throne united with the church. And if the latter had not been goaded by the papal see, to support its extravagant claim to universal and imperial domination; and had been more willing, to have let the sovereign occasionally share some portion of their revenues, the unity might never have been broken. All establishments left to themselves, tend to subside into the peaceful apathy of contented self-enjoyment. But the government occasionally wanted money, and the clergy resisted taxation. When the pope threatened or issued excommunications, he called upon the prelates to support him, on pain of their excommunication. And as none of our sovereigns reigned without some disputes with the papal chair, it became as expedient for the crown, for its own safety, to clip the beak and talons, and wings of its church establishment, as to bruise the power of its fierce nobility.

dispose of his property for the salvation of his soul. Royal wills, p. 321. Some of our most munificent foundations of charity and learning, have arisen from testamentary dispositions of the wealthy clergy. The highest ranks of the laity had the same impression. Hence Henry the sixth's splendid establishments of Eton College, and King's College, Cambridge; on which see Parl. Rolls. V. 5, p. 75—102.

¹⁴ The anxiety of all the great and wealthy laity, to have masses said for their souls, either from love of pomp or from an alarmed feeling, as to the other world, appears in their wills; and was perpetually raining down money on some of the religious classes. Thus the countess of March gives one prior 10 marks, to another 60 shillings, and to every canon of the priory, 40 shillings, to pray for her soul; and 200 *l.* for keeping her anniversary, besides

Of other valuable legacies. Royal wills, p. 98. The earl March, her son, left 1,000 *l.* to an abbey, to be employed in the same manner; besides all their plate and furniture to several chapels; and 40 *l.* each to three abbeys; and 40 marks each to 21 other religious houses, to pray for his soul and his wife's; 20 marks to three others; 20 *l.* to one nunnery, and 40 marks to two others, to pray for his soul, and for all christians for a year. Ib. 105—111. The earl of Arundel, authorizes his executors, to apply a sum, not exceeding 1,000 marks, for his soul; besides 400 marks, for singing for him and his lady at Lewes; and 100 to the church at Chichester. Ib. 121—8. Also, 20 *l.* to another; 16 *l.* to another; and 40 *l.* each to four others; p. 135. Besides legacies of plate and garments. Almost every will has bequests of this sort.

Of the determination, with which our ancient kings sometimes attacked the church, we have a remarkable instance in 1296, while Occam was flourishing. Edward I. then requested aid from both laity and clergy, for his war against France, on account of Gascony. The convocation divided itself into four bodies. The bishops; the deans and archdeacons; the abbots and priors; and the representatives of the parochial ministers. Each consulted apart, and decided to give no contribution; and made a bull of Boniface, anathematizing all who submitted to such payments, their public excuse. The king, upon consulting his parliament, a few days after, issued what the chronicler reasonably calls "a cruel edict," against the clergy, without any exception of persons or dignities. He sent writs to the sheriffs, and seized and confiscated all the lands, goods, and property of the clergy, of every description. He had a written list made out, of every acre they possessed, and the value of all their estates, and taxed them accordingly. None could get back their property, without due submission, and paying also such a fine as he imposed; and they who did not submit, were treated as outlaws and traitors, and could get no redress in the courts of law, for any injury which any layman chose to do them. This attack is declared to have made the clergy the opprobrium of men, and the contempt of the people¹⁵. It certainly pointed out to the great laity, the fat deer that was to be chased; and broke down that wall of veneration, which had so long protected their possessions, as the property of the Supreme.

The two succeeding Edwards, and the second Richard, had felt themselves obliged to concur with the passions of the community, in curtailing, by slow degrees, the power of the church. Yet still when the crown applied to it for money, the usual answer was returned, that it was too poor. Thus, in 1425, a subsidy was asked

¹⁵ Hearne's Chron. de Dunstaple, p. 652—4.

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asked to support the duke of Bedford in his French war. The clergy refused it, on the allegation of their poverty¹⁶. These refusals, at the time they were exhibiting the most ostentatious luxury, compelled the government to look critically upon that, and to coincide with the call of society for its correction. It was clear, that what was spent for individual purposes, could not be contributed to the state; and therefore, even Henry the fifth, who supported them so steadily, as to destroy his military friend sir John Oldcastle, for their sake, and to witness himself the burning of a poor heretic¹⁷, ordered an inquiry into the parade and exorbitances of the Benedictine monks, and had restrictions enacted¹⁸, and he urged by his ambassadors at Constance, extensive reformation in the church. So, when in 1419, he applied to them for a subsidy to aid him in his war, and to pay for those who should be sent to Constance; he required also, the defects reigning among the clergy to be reformed¹⁹. This addition was perhaps found to be the most efficacious means of obtaining the taxation. His concession to them, was, his permitting the convocation to arrest and persecute several heretics²⁰.

As the pope and the crown were competitors in exacting money from the clergy, this "irritamentum mali," as Ovid felt it to be; this "root of all evil," as the apostle pronounces it, induced the crown from the reign of Edward I., to be steady in its efforts, to diminish the papal power and influence in England. The two statutes of *quare impedit* and *premunire facias*, had this direct tendency²¹.

Edward III.

¹⁶ Wilk. Concil. 3, p. 433.

¹⁷ Hist. Eng. V. 2, p. 304—308.

¹⁸ The bishop of Exeter, from the king, made various propositions as to their excesses and abuses. Croyl. 514; see the process in the years 1422 and 1423, in Wilk. Conc. V. 3, p. 413—26. One restriction imposed, expresses emphatically, the assumed pomp, that it was felt necessary to lessen. Their superiors were not to ride out with *more* than

20 horses including baggage; nor with gilt reins. Ib.

¹⁹ 3 Wilk. 393.

²⁰ As R. Walker; Rad. Owtrede; W. Browne; and R. Wycl. e. Ib. 394, 5.

²¹ The first statute against papal provisions was made, 31 Edw. I., and was the foundation of all the subsequent statutes of *premunire*. Coke, 2, Inst. 583. The chapter in Blackstone's Commentaries on this subject, L. 4, c. 8,

Edward III. pursued the policy of his father and grandfather; and in 1343, when Clement VI., made provision for two of his cardinals, out of vacant benefices in England, to the amount of 2,000 marks, besides their prelacies and abbies, the king drove their collecting agents out of the kingdom²²; and soon after published that celebrated letter to the pope, asserting the liberty of the English church²³.

It became so unpopular, both at court, and in the nation, for the English clergy, to seek as formerly patronage from the papal see, that one who had obtained a bull for the see of Winchester²⁴; and afterwards, another who had a similar one for that of Ely²⁵, were forced publicly to renounce their foreign appointments, as prejudicial to the crown. The ministers of Edward III. had such little deference to the feelings of the pontiff, that in 1374, they appointed Wickliff one of the ambassadors to him from the king²⁶; and the commons exhibited such a diminution of former veneration to the church as to petition, that no ordinance should be made on the application of the clergy, without assent of parliament; and that no one should be bound by any of their constitutions made for their own advantage²⁷.

But it was the property and power, not the doctrines of the church, against which the government pressed. When the clergy were disposed to be liberal with their temporalities, the crown supported their spiritual opinions. Hence even under Richard II., in

c. 8, will give the reader full information upon it. Several statutes were enacted in Edw. the third's reign, against provisors, as 25 Ed. III, st. 6.; 27 Ed. III, st. 1. c. 1.; 38 Ed. III, st. 1, c. 4, and st. 2. c. 1, 2, 3, 4. These enact, that the court of Rome shall not present or collate to any bishopric or living in England; that the king, or his subjects, shall not be cited to answer at Rome; and that king John's donation of vassalage and annual rent to the pope, was null and void. All the temporal nobility and commons engaged, that if the pope should endeavor to

maintain these usurpations, they would resist him with all their power. Seld. Flet. 10, 4. Blackst. L. 4, c. 8.

²² Harl. MSS. N° 7048, p. 228. A neat selection of the most important facts in the MSS. collection of documents in Cleop. E. 2. and others.

²³ Ib.

²⁴ 20 Ed. III, Harl. MSS. 229. Cotton MSS. Cleop. E. 2.

²⁵ 36 Ed. III, ib. Cleop. ib.

²⁶ Harl. MSS. 229. Cleop. ib.

²⁷ 51 Ed. III, Harl. ib. Cleop. ib.

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in 1381, a statute against lollardy was passed²⁸, and the king sent letters to Oxford in the following year, to search out and expel heretics, and to seize the books of John Wicliffe and Nicholas Herford²⁹. Carmelites were sent down by the archbishop, to enforce this mandate; when the chancellor resisted, to be himself accused of heresy for the opposition³⁰; and Richard II. was, five years afterwards, applauded by Urban VI., for his zeal against heretics and schism³¹.

Yet though in this year, the king's commissioners went to the corporation of Nottingham, to obtain and bring to the council, the heretical books of Herford, and of Wicliffe, then lately dead³². Yet, before two years had elapsed, we find an act of parliament made against the provisions and reservations of the pope³³; and a letter to him from the king and lords, justifying the hostile statute³⁴. A clergyman was publicly forbidden to make any application to Rome, for the archdeaconry of Durham³⁵. The king issued letters to prohibit every English bishop from collecting money for the pope, without leave of parliament³⁶; and in 1391, at Whitsuntide, ordered all beneficed clergy, that were at the Roman court, to return home by Michaelmas, under the penalty of deprivation³⁷; though, at the same time, he granted writs to enable the bishops to throw heretics into prison³⁸. Thus the conscience was surrendered to the church; but the battle was strenuous for the golden fleece.

This distinction was repeatedly marked and maintained under the remainder of the reign of this unrespected sovereign. He ordered the chancellor of Oxford not to permit Friar Crampe to exercise his scholastic acts against the Catholic faith³⁹. He commanded the mayor and sheriffs of London, to repress the conventicles

²⁸ Stat. 5 R. II.

²⁹ Harl. MSS. 233.

³⁰ Ib.

³¹ 11 Rich. II. Harl. ib.

³² Ib.

³³ Stat. 13 Rich. II.

³⁴ Harl. MSS. 233.

³⁵ Ib.

³⁶ Ib.

³⁷ Ib. 229.

³⁸ Ib. 234.

³⁹ Ib.

conventicles of lollards⁴⁰ in the metropolis. He received complaints against the mayor of Northampton, for favoring heresy and heretics⁴¹; and he desired the Oxonian university, to consult by what methods heresies and schisms might be extirpated⁴². Yet, at the same time, he sent his writ, forbidding papal bulls to be admitted, exempting the scholars from the jurisdiction of the bishops⁴³. This mercenary and double-dealing conduct of his administration, aggravated his general misgovernment, and set all the national mind in fatal hostility against him. His abetting the church, in their attacks on the right of conscience and freedom of opinion, made all the conscientious, the intelligent, the liberal in sentiment, and the objectors to ecclesiastical tyranny, his enemies; while his resistance to the pope's asserted power, and his claims on the church property, alienated both the clergy and their foreign sovereign from his throne.

Richard became useless to the establishment in proportion as he was unpopular; and it abandoned and assisted to depose him. The archbishop of Canterbury went in person to invite Henry IV. to invade⁴⁴; and the prince began his reign under the patronage of the possessed clergy, and as their ally; and the severest statute that had yet passed against lollards, was soon enacted⁴⁵.

So singular was the complexity of interests, that were now arising into mischievous contention, that the clergy were even obliged to resist their great bulwark, the pope; and to support the government in its contests against him. His exactions of money produced this hostile conduct, as already noticed, in the thirteenth century⁴⁶. Their resentment at his impositions, blinded them to the perception, that he could not be depreciated, and they be secure; and in the fifteenth century, they began vigorously to attack him. Paulus Anglicus in 1404, wrote his *Aureum Speculum* pointedly

⁴⁰ Harl. MSS. 234.

⁴¹ Ib.

⁴² Ib.

⁴³ Ib.

⁴⁴ Hist. Engl. V. 2, p. 240.

⁴⁵ See Statutes of the Realm, V. 2, p. 125.

⁴⁶ Hist. Engl. V. 2, p. 396—8.

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pointedly against him⁴⁷. In 1408, R. Ullerstone, was urged by the bishop of Salisbury, to a work as inimical, in which he not only declared in express terms, that “no nation of the faith under heaven, is so noted for inexorable and insatiable avarice as the Roman court;” but extended his demands for reformation, to most of the moral grievances which the church supported⁴⁸. The celebrated W. Lyndwood⁴⁹, was sent by the royal council at the accession of Henry VI., to the council at Basle; and in the king’s name preached against the pomp and arrogance of the Roman pontiffs, against appeals to them, and against their demand, that no king should acknowledge on earth a superior to themselves⁵⁰. The popes, on their part, endeavored to keep the English bishops their supporters against the king, and to nominate them accordingly. In 1422, on the archbishop of York’s death, the pontiff appointed, as his successor, the bishop of Lincoln, who was then on an embassy to him. The regent lords chose another prelate. To please them, Lincoln renounced the papal nomination. On hearing this, the pope exclaimed, “I thought he would have been a firm pillar; but I now see, that he is only a reed, easily shaken⁵¹.”

The papal see, equally unaware of the unfriendly future, whose advance it was accelerating, if not producing, fought stoutly against both the English government and the English clergy. Though the long-continued, and most unwisely repeated, competi-

⁴⁷ It is printed by Goldastus, in his *Monarchia*, V. 1, p. 1527. It contains a dialogue between Peter and Paul, ‘de insolentiis et erroribus Romanæ curiæ.’ P. 1528. He says, a century before Luther, ‘I will detect the most grievous errors of the Roman court, about the provisions of benefices, and the grants of indulgencies, and will condemn them with the simoniacal transactions. I will declare all the Roman court to be erroneous, and to be labouring under a state of damnation.’

⁴⁸ His book, *De Reformatione Ecclesiæ*,

discusses these subjects: the election of the pope; simony; exemptions; dispensations; pluralities; appeals; abuses of privileges; the apostacy of clergymen intermeddling with secular affairs; extortions; the superfluous, sumptuous, and inordinate apparel of the clergy, and their households. See Wharton’s add. to Cave. Hist. Liter. p. 74.

⁴⁹ He wrote the book that became a standard work, on the Constitutions of the Church.

⁵⁰ Whart. Cave, p. 84.

⁵¹ Walsingham MSS. Sloane, 1776.

tions of rival popes, anathematizing each other, had been shaking the whole papal establishment to its foundations; and an Englishman, of great exertions against the heretics of his day, had disputed vigorously against two of these popes, as anti-popes⁵²; yet the successful and acknowledged one, while on the one hand he struggled fiercely, and repeatedly, with government, on the right of nominating the bishops of England⁵³, on the other, attacked the English prelacy itself, in the person of the archbishop of Canterbury, in the year 1426⁵⁴. Some pecuniary affairs seem to have been the secret cause, for it was after the departure from England, of the pope's financial officer, that the archbishop thought it necessary to write to the pontiff, that some "detractors striving to embitter the sweetness of his paternal love," had suggested, that he and the duke of Gloucester, were the chief impeters of ecclesiastical liberties in England⁵⁵. The pope, in answer, assures him, that until he received that letter, he had no idea, that the archbishop and the duke had been so hostile; but he commands him to labour for "a repeal of that execrable statute against ecclesiastical liberties⁵⁶," called the statute against provisors, which forbade any foreign ecclesiastic to have benefices in England. To get this restriction abolished, he wrote both to the pope and to the parliament⁵⁷. The bishops, the university of Oxford, and the temporal lords, interfered with him in defence of the archbishop⁵⁸. In vain—the pope suspended the head prelate of England⁵⁹, and sent his collector to serve on him the sentence. The duke of Gloucester commissioned an esquire to arrest the bearer of the papal bulls.

The

⁵² This was Netter the Carmelite, in 1409.

⁵³ He would not sanction the person named by the English regency, and kept the mitre of York unoccupied for some years, till the duke of Bedford at last recommended another bishop. Wals. MSS. Sloane. In 1434, we find Henry VI. reproving a priest for accepting the pope's nomination to the see of Worcester, and writing to his envoy at Rome, to prevent

the pope's filling up the vacant bishopric of Rochester. MSS. Cott. Lib. Cleop. E. 3.

⁵⁴ The papers are in Wilk. Conc. V. 3, p. 471—487.

⁵⁵ Ib. p. 472.

⁵⁶ Ib. p. 474.

⁵⁷ Ib. 479, 480.

⁵⁸ Ib. 476—8.

⁵⁹ See his bull, ib. 484.

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The king's writ was issued, forbidding them to be promulgated⁶⁰; and the archbishop appealed against the arbitrary pontiff⁶¹. The house of commons supported their injured prelate⁶².

While the king and pope, as their interests excited, were thus attacking the church; and by so doing, were sanctioning and increasing the hostile feelings, that were diffusing through society against it; the house of commons took occasion to express and enforce some of these sentiments in the third year after Henry VI. had acceded.

The year 1425, was peculiarly marked by its complaints, against the conduct of the clergy. In one petition it represented, that there were many chapels sufficiently endowed and annexed to parish churches, in various parts; and accustomed to have service performed, which were then tortiously withheld from their sacred use, by the parochial parsons or vicars⁶³. In another remonstrance it stated, that from the non-residence of the clergy on their parsonages, and for lack of priests to do divine service, children had died unchristened; burials had been delayed, and pregnant women had perished. That in some parish kyrks, scarcely three masses were said in a week; and in some not one. That although the old custom was, that a third part of the goods of holy church should be expended in each parish, upon its poor and needy; yet, that now all that could be raised, was carried away from it to the parsons, wherever they were. That if a poor man took any penny of his tithing, he was denied the sacrament; and that sermons were not preached, and no manner of knowing good doctrine was supplied. It prayed a compulsion of residence, on pain of forfeiting half the profits⁶⁴.

The object and spirit of the commons, were visibly directed to depreciate and attack the church establishment, as far as in its then

⁶⁰ See his bull, ib. 486.

⁶¹ Ib. 485.

⁶² They petitioned the king in parliament on the subject, and prayed, that the pope's

proceedings for what he called the liberties of Rome in England, might be 'casser.' Rolls Parl. V. 4, p. 322.

⁶³ Rolls Parl. V. 4, p. 290.

⁶⁴ Ib.

then state of power, they could safely venture; for in another petition they reminded the sovereign, that their ancestors had apprized Richard II., that the cathedral churches, colleges, abbeys, priories, and other benefices of his kingdom, had been founded and richly endowed, in order that they might be given to honest and suitable persons, to serve and honor God more loyally; to maintain hospitalities; to inform and teach the people; and to do what was appertaining to the cure of souls, according to the value of their benefices. They complained that these were given to foreigners, who did not reside in England; who would not, and could not act, as above described; who neither heard confessions, nor preached, nor taught; but who merely investigated, and exacted all the pecuniary emoluments, without any regard to their spiritual duties. They ended with mentioning the fact, which ought to have produced some disquiet, in every foreseeing ecclesiastic and statesman, that the whole state of the church was held in less reverence than before⁶⁵. This address was the more pointed, because the bishop of Winchester had made, in his opening speech to that year's parliament, an invective against heresy and lollards⁶⁶. The royal answer was, the civil negative "Le Roy s'avisera"⁶⁷.

But the commons were not discouraged. They represented again, that divers men of holy church had not been resident on their livings; and expressly added, that by this neglect, the people had fallen into lollardies and heresies, for default of teaching⁶⁸.

The government was as unable as unwilling to remedy the evil; and chose therefore to meet this last application, by an assertion, that the existing laws were sufficient if executed⁶⁹, and to join the church in repressing its opponents. Seven years afterwards, in 1432, this was distinctly shown, by the speech to parliament being vehement against the incredulous and contemners, and rebels of the

⁶⁵ Rolls Parl. V. 4, p. 305.

⁶⁶ Ib. 295.

⁶⁷ Ib. 305.

⁶⁸ Rolls Parl. V. 4, p. 306.

⁶⁹ Ib.

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the divine law, who deny faith, despise the sacraments, and seek to destroy the ministers of God and the church, as far as they are able⁷⁰. After this mutual display of warring feeling, it is obvious, that the appeal to the sword was the only next resort; and that as the church was now directing the armed hand of the state against its opponents, they meditated and prepared for retaliating the violence against that government, which identified itself with their persecutors. A civil contest became inevitable, as soon as the dissatisfied party was strong enough to maintain it. The crown did not chuse to be neuter, and leave the church to the only weapons they ought to have used; reason, law, and wise reformation. The crown determined to fight the battle for it, and fell with its steadiest supporters in the dreadful conflict.

Effect of the
mendicant
orders.

The rise and progress of the mendicant orders, multiplied the embarrassments and the dangers of the possessed church, while they endeavoured to uphold the papal domination. The popes did not discern the incompatibility of sustaining the one, and of attacking the other. Irritated by the resistance of the clergy to their exactions; and by finding the possessed body usually united with government against their tiara, especially in their ambitious projects; and perceiving also the spreading unpopularity of clerical indolence and luxury, the pontiffs cherished the Franciscans, Dominicans, and other mendicant orders of friars, as more active, useful, and obedient servants, and as those who would prove its more zealous, able and popular troops. At first these friars, being angrily discountenanced by the established clergy, especially in England, were left to endure the miseries of famine, and the oppressions of wealthy power⁷¹. But their appeal to the sympathies of the public, their recommendation by the popes, and the moral contrast which they exhibited between their voluntary poverty and humility;

⁷⁰ Rolls. Parl. V. 4, p. 388.

⁷¹ Hist. Engl. V. 2, p. 402—5. The four principal mendicant orders were, the Fran-

ciscans, the Dominicans, the Augustines, and the Carmelites.

humility; and the pride and luxury of the monks and prevailing clergy, soon raised them to high veneration and importance.

But although it was found necessary, to have a religious militia of this sort, to oppose the new opinions of the day, which the wealthy possessors of the monasteries, and church temporalities, by their relaxing habits occasioned, and were too indolent, or too ignorant to combat: Yet no hostilities from the heretics, whose censures were so dreaded, could have been more dangerous, or more fatal to the papal church, than the unceasing, popular, and sanctioned warfare of these its new allies and missioned emissaries actually became. They began a steady and pertinacious attack on the wealth, luxury, attainments, and conduct of the established clergy. They contested with them for the exercise of all their functions, and especially of those so important for the influence and power, which all, who enjoyed them, exercised—confession, absolution, the administration of the sacraments, and the command of purgatory. They delighted to expose the ignorance and illiberality of the establishment, and to display their own superior attainments; and they succeeded in bringing the previous members of the church into popular disesteem; and in confirming the general dissatisfaction at their rich possessions, and worldly lives. The statutes of Mortmain, preventing these friars from receiving landed property, the religious, or penitentiary part of the public, poured their pecuniary favors on their new orders, in preference to the hierarchal church, or in conjunction with it; and from this liberality, the Dominicans and Franciscans, in the fourteenth century, became rivals to the establishment in the very affluence and luxury, for which they had so unsparingly reviled it.

So great was the popularity of the mendicant orders, that during the fourteenth century, they established themselves in the highest favor at court. Thus, a Dominican became the confessor of Edward III., and another of Richard II. Such were their influence and power, and so despotic was their use of it, that the Dominican

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Dominican confessor of Edward, arrested the confessor of the archbishop of Canterbury, at the prelate's table, and had him dragged to prison, with several others, whom he kept many years in confinement, and from whom, by using the king's name, he made many grievous extortions⁷². In the same spirit, the friar, who became confessor of Richard II., arrested, imprisoned, and tortured his criticising or resisting brethren, without hearing or permitting any defence, till he was disgraced and exiled: not even the great laity could escape his hostility. He interfered, in all things; and having the royal ear, he governed as he pleased⁷³. Others of the Dominican order, are described as fascinating the princes and nobles, by their preaching and flattery, and through their instrumentality oppressing, and beating down all whom they chose to attack⁷⁴. In their influence over the female world, they are thus distinguished. The Franciscans were most favored by noble ladies and gentlewomen. The Dominicans by the nuns⁷⁵.

The hostilities of the friars against the established monks and clergy, excited from these an indignant animosity. They wrote many works against mendicity, which were expressly aimed at these intruders⁷⁶. Their anger took the shape of prophecy, and finding that they could not prevent the aggrandizement of their rivals, they solaced themselves by predicting their speedy downfall. Thus the Abbot Joachim, ventured to announce, that the mendicant orders would soon be annihilated. A canon of Bridlington,

⁷² Pet. Pateshul. British Museum, MSS. Titus, D. 10. This MS. contains the extracts which our biographer, Bale, made from this author's works.

⁷³ Pateshul, an Augustine friar, his contemporary, has transmitted these facts to us. MSS. ib.

⁷⁴ Patesh. MS. ib.

⁷⁵ Ib.

⁷⁶ Thus Jos. Ashwardby, in 1380, attacked the mendicity of friars. Tanner Bib. Mon. p. 53. So Jo. Aston, in 1382, ib. 55. The chancellor of St. Paul's discussed, in 1470,

whether mendicants were in a state of perfection. Tan. 478; and in France, Will. de St. Amour, in his book on the dangers of the latter times, published a bitter invective against the mendicant orders. St. Lewis sent this to pope Alexander IV. The celebrated Thomas Aquinas and Bonaventure were sent into Italy, to defend their orders. Aquinas, in his nineteenth Opusculum, composed an apology for the mendicants. The pope then condemned Amour's work, and he was banished from the university of Paris. Alban Butler's Life of St. Thomas, V. 3, p. 50.

lington, who versified the English annals, when he reached the reign of Richard II., declared, that the fathers of the church would speedily abolish them; and a Jacobin friar, even fixed the year 1408, as the time when the chain of Dominic, and the rope of Francis, would be broken⁷⁷. It is an Augustine friar, who, with similar feelings, warm from the battles of his day, repeats these attacks; and thus apprizes us, that the prosperity of the two most successful orders, had even divided the mendicants friars against each other; and that the friars were fighting among themselves, at the same time that they were assailing, and assailed by the church establishment.

But the opponents of the Franciscans and Dominicans, were not contented with uttering ominous predictions. They believed and circulated the most injurious anecdotes and fictions against them. Thus the Augustine describes a Franciscan as haunting a noble lady on her death bed, to prevail on her to bequeath her property to his order⁷⁸. The friars of a convent are named who passed their nights in jovial revelry⁷⁹. Three demons are declared to have been seen walking in the cloisters of the Dominicans, dressed in their habits⁸⁰; and the most opprobrious vices are enumerated as the real character of their sanctimonious hypocrisy⁸¹. That no disgraceful imputation may be omitted, they are charged with being coiners and sorcerers⁸².

That the obnoxious and calumniated orders, were superior to their opponents, in their intellectual attainments, is proved by the accusation itself: for as two instances of their studying necromancy,

⁷⁷ Pat. MSS. Titus, D. 10. This prediction was not so visionary, at the time it was uttered, as it may at first appear. The prevalence of the opinions of Wycliff, and the power of his supporters, were so great, that the church in this country would have been shaken, if Richard II. had not been deposed. It was the accession of Henry IV. that postponed the English reformation to Henry VIII. His change of the dynasty kept the established

church from any alteration of its property for a century longer.

⁷⁸ Pat. MSS. ib.

⁷⁹ Ib.

⁸⁰ Ib. 194.

⁸¹ 'Contentiones, simulationes, iræ, rixæ, homicidia, furta, blasphemix, incestus, adulteria, masculorum concubitus, detractiones, prodiones.' Pat. ib.

⁸² Pat. ib.

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mancy, and alchemy, the illustrious Franciscan, Roger Bacon ; and the not less celebrated Dominican, Albertus Magnus, are peculiarly selected⁸³. But when we recollect, that St Thomas Aquinas, was a Dominican, and that all the great schoolmen arose from the mendicant orders, we shall immediately perceive, that the triumph of mind and knowledge, was indisputably their's. Few works, since the days of Aristotle, display such a profundity, acuteness, and activity of logical, ethical, and metaphysical thought, as those of Aquinas. They occupy nineteen folio volumes, and yet he died in his forty-eighth year⁸⁴. The mental superiority of these new orders, naturally resulted from the fact, that becoming the most popular and energetic, the intelligent youth of the country, joined their schools and communities, in preference to the less-applauded establishment. Young spirits, who love fame and distinction, fly to the points where praise is most attainable, and by the celebrity they acquire, perpetuate the attractions, by which they were themselves attached to the societies they adorn.

St. Francis had enjoined his order to wear a hair-cloth next the skin, a coarse woollen tunic with a rope for a girdle, and no shoes ; but at the close of the fourteenth century, the Franciscans, in England, are described to have used garments of the finest and softest wool, most delicately dyed, with a silken knotted cord made by friendly nuns, and with sandals curiously cut, embroidered with variegated silk needle work. They had lofty mansions, precious jewels, and bags of money ; if they were reminded

⁸³ ' Alios diversarum superstitionum libros a quodam fratre Rogero Bacono, minore, et fratre Alberto, predicatore, et aliis necromanticis, alchemistis, incantatoribus, predictarum sectarum doctoribus, editos.' Pat. MSS. 194. Albertus Magnus wrote a treatise of affectionate piety, in Latin, on the union of the soul with the deity, which was translated into Italian, and printed at Rome, in 1525.

⁸⁴ He died 7 March 1274. Alb. Butler's

Life of St. Thomas, V. 3, p. 58. He was not a mere subtle reasoner. He seems to have cherished the most ardent and spiritual feelings of christianity, and to have been a man of unambitious simplicity, and sincerity of character. It is to the credit of the great churchmen of his day, that, if they could not imitate, they could at least duly appreciate him.

reminded of their vow of poverty, they answered, "All these are the pope's property, not ours. We have none⁸⁵."

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XV.

The English Dominicans had as much departed from their original institution. They who were to have had no money, or fine buildings, to eat no flesh, unless sick, to have no linen, gloves, or boots, and to be clothed in coarse woollen from the head to the feet, had now made their dress as elegant and as delicate as the Franciscans⁸⁶. It cannot be doubted, that in the reign of Henry VI. the great body of the clergy both within and without the old establishment, were exchanging with universal emulation, the spirit and manners of religion for those of worldly affluence, ambition, and voluptuousness⁸⁷. The noble exceptions that occasionally arose, but proved more clearly the prevailing degeneracy.

That the Franciscans were most vivacious in exerting their intellectual pugnacity against the ancient churchmen; and were fond of displaying the great superiority of mind and knowledge which they had attained, has been noticed before⁸⁸. Not even their acquisition of wealth, dignity, and fame, could stop their propensity. They had excited their own inquisitiveness to an activity, which delighted to attack their established antagonists; who retorted with bitterness on them the charge of heresy, and actually prosecuted them for it. Thus in 1425, two Franciscans were cited for opinions savoring of error and heresy. They escaped by denying the truth of the allegations⁸⁹. But a more formidable assailant arose in William Russell, a Franciscan and guardian of the convent of his order in London. He taught in the same

⁸⁵ Pet. Pat. MSS. 194.

⁸⁶ The two other great bodies of mendicant friars, the Carmelites and Augustines, were treading in the same steps. *Ib.* But our public records show, that the superiors of the Cistercian monks made repeated efforts to visit and reform their brethren. See *Rym. Fed.* 10, p. 501, and N. 93.

⁸⁷ The prosecution in 1424, against the Dominican John Russell, for preaching, that a religious man would not mortally sin if he committed the immoral act which he mentions, is an instance of the innovations that were attempted. *Wilk. Conc.* V. 3, p. 430.

⁸⁸ See *Hist. Engl.* V. 2, p. 411, 412.

⁸⁹ *Wilk. Conc.* 3, p. 433.

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same year the alarming doctrines, that personal tithes were not a divine precept, or at least should not be paid to the parochial clergy; that they were not due where there was no custom in their favor, and that unless there was a legal usage to the contrary, every one might dispense them in pious uses among the poor⁹⁰. A long process was instituted against him for this attack on the pecuniary rights of the church, which ended in his making a solemn abjuration⁹¹. In the next year, another Franciscan at York, was prosecuted for teaching that a priest who lapsed into mortal sin, was no priest as to heaven; and therefore, that a secular judge who should arrest one mortally sinning, did not lay violent hands on a priest: That the sacerdotal office rested merely in the consecration of the eucharist: That if the church would not punish the unchastity of its professors, laymen must; and that if a priest apprehended by the secular authority would not enter a prison, he might be driven into it by stripes⁹². These instances shew the continued hostilities of the order of St. Francis against the established church. The Dominicans were not more friendly.

But the warfare most dangerous to the establishment in the reign

⁹⁰ Wilk. Conc. p. 434.

⁹¹ Ib. 439.

⁹² Ib. 488. These mendicant orders were, however, real benefactors to literature, amid their bigotry and eccentricities. Our ancient drama is greatly indebted to them for its first, though rude state. In the Cotton Library, Vesp. D. 8, is an important MS. which exhibits their attempts to dramatize the history of the New Testament. The MS. title of the work is, 'Contenta Novi Testamenti, scenice expressa, et actitata olim, per Monachos, sive Fratres mendicantes. Vulgo dicitur, hic liber, 'Ludus Coventriæ, sive ludus Corp. xi.' It is written in English metre. Sir W. Dugdale thought it contained the dramas performed at Coventry during the feast of Corpus Christi. Ant. War. p. 116. It begins,—

' Now, gracyous God! grounded of all goodnesse!

As your grete glorie nevyr begynnnyng had;
So them socour and save, all them that sytt
and sese,

And lystenyth to our talkyng with sylens
still and sad;

For, we purpose in pertly styлле in these prese,
The pepyl to please with pleys ful glad.

Now lysteneth us, lonely, beth mar and lesse,
Gentyllys and Yemanys! of goodly lyff lad,

This tyde.

We wal you shewe, as yt we kan,
How that this world fyrst began;
And how God made bothe molde and man,
Yff that ye wyll abyde.

In the ffyrst pagent, we thinke to play
How God dede make yowe his own myth
Hevyn so cler upon the fyrst day, &c.'

reign of Henry VI. was that waged by the Carmelites against it. They had distinguished themselves already in the same reign and under Henry V. for repelling the doctrines of the Wickliffites⁹³. But they felt that the property and luxury of the great English clergy were inconsistent with their Christianity. As the discussions they caused have not been noticed in our national history, and shew very strongly both the state and feeling of the public mind on this subject, at this critical period; and the concussions which the church was receiving from its own members, it will illustrate this important subject, if we detail them from the authentic account, which the archbishop of Canterbury then sent to the pope⁹⁴.

In the middle of October, 1464, a young Carmelite, Henry Parker, publicly taught at St. Paul's, that Christ lived like one of the poor, in a state of mendicity; that the mendicant was, therefore, the most perfect state of the militant church; and that the spiritual part of the church ought to have no property, but to live on pure alms.

To repel the effect of these opinions, a doctor appeared in the same pulpit on behalf of the establishment on the following Sunday, and with moderation and good temper preached a sermon, contradicting Parker's positions. But some little time afterwards, another Carmelite, Thomas Holden, a doctor of divinity, and head of his convent, declared in the same place, on the second Sunday in Advent, that he could not permit the doctrines of his brother and scholar, which had been reprobated, to remain undefended;

⁹³ Thus Netter of Walder, one of their order, acquired great celebrity, in 1414, by his *Doctrinale Antiquum* against the opinions of Wickliff. Wharton's *App. to Cave. Hist. Lit.* p. 75. In this work, he collected into one body all the questions and opinions of Wickliff, and other reformers, and vigorously attacked them. Gualter Dysse wrote against heresy and lollardy. Richard Maydesley composed an applauded oration against them, and R. Lanyfans read an attack on them at

Oxford. Bale's MSS. Titus, A. 10. These were all Carmelites.

⁹⁴ We are indebted for this to Bale's transcript in the Cotton library, Titus, D. 10, p. 185—7. It is signed also by seven doctors of divinity, one of whom is Thomas Eburhall. It is in answer to the pope's letter, dated June 1465, desiring to know what had been preached against the faith, and to have a specimen of the sermons, that the heretical pravity may be punished with *worthy severity*. Ib.

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undefended; and therefore he went at great length into the writings of the apostles and fathers, to prove that the Saviour had lived on public benevolence. He rested himself on this article, because the other doctrines followed immediately from it; and he declared that it should be discussed again in his schools on the following Friday. On this day other persons resumed the subject, and maintained that it was a true and catholic tenet. On the following Sunday they pursued their blow, and decided in the same schools, that Christ, while in his human nature, had chosen to be neither king, nor lord, but to live poor like a beggar, till he arose from the dead.

The effect of these exertions was so great, the archbishop adds, that the faith of many began to vacillate; and to doubt about the propriety of a possessed church, to its great danger⁹⁵.

Roused both by the obvious intention of such sermons and by the visible peril, a learned doctor was selected to discuss at length on the ensuing sabbath, in what catholic sense our Saviour's mendicity was to be understood; and to shew, that neither he nor his apostles had begged alms, as the mendicant orders were accustomed to do. His eloquence appeased the people; but on the fourth Advent Sunday, the Carmelites were reinforced by a Dominican friar, who preached in confirmation of all the dreaded doctrines, and informed the people that after dinner, if they chose to attend at the Carmelite chapel, they would hear a more full discourse on the same topics from a venerable doctor. Papers were then affixed on the doors of the church to give further notice of this intended harangue. Thus the question, as to the property of the clergy, was made a regular battle between them and the mendicant orders.

In the afternoon, the people flocked with eagerness to the convent of the Carmelites: and there, the provincial of the order himself, John Mylverton, was seen to ascend the pulpit. He said, he

⁹⁵ MS. Titus, D. 10.

he had heard that one of his brethren had been defamed by the charge of error and blasphemy. He declared that he had diligently examined the question, and was satisfied that his brother was entirely guiltless, as he had uttered neither a blasphemous nor a vain opinion; and to convince them that he had preached nothing wrong, he would himself confirm all that had been said, from the authority of scripture, and from the writings of the fathers.

He quoted largely for this purpose, and strove to persuade his audience that Christ was so far mendicant, as to have no right or title to any thing, but what he received from human bounty. His arguments, the prelate intimates to have been slender and scandalous, but to have been uttered with such gravity of countenance, such an ardent spirit, and such elaborate circumstances, that he disturbed very much the minds of his auditors, and the unlearned vulgar; always ready, he adds, to take the worst part.

A great tumult arose among the people; and alarming imaginations began to be indulged. "We know," says the archbishop, "that some thought, and we heard some even dare to say, if he were so poor, why should his followers, the pope, cardinals, archbishops, bishops, abbots, and other prelates, have so many possessions, and such great property. Priests ought not to take tithes nor oblations, but as we please to give them, and ought to live on pure alms only." "Some" he subjoins, "were carried to that pitch of infamy as not to fear to say, that the possessed church had apostatized from the very time it became endowed; and that it was a duty that would be grateful to God, to take from the prelates their riches and ample possessions, which they had held in contradiction to the example of their Lord and his apostles." The venom so spread, that they could scarcely be kept *from a public insurrection*⁹⁶.

The prelate expresses his opinion, that the sword of the prince was more wanted than the authority of the church; that these

errors

⁹⁶ MS. Titus, D. 10.

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errors had become so deeply rooted in the minds of the hearers, that they could not be plucked out; that he had caused the two Carmelites to be excommunicated, and he solicited the papal assistance⁹⁷. This was granted and used; ecclesiastical censures were issued, with all their severities; some of the attacked despised them; but others were terrified and abjured. Mylverton went to Rome, to complain to the pope, of the injuries brought on his order; but the archbishop pursued him with a letter to the pontiff, which had the effect of causing him to be imprisoned in the castle of St. Angelo⁹⁸. The pope, in the inquiry, which occasioned the narrative, stated, that such heretical pravity must be amputated in its beginning; and therefore urged the metropolitan to admonish the people to fly from the deadly poison⁹⁹. Mylverton was kept above two years in his dungeon; he long resisted the tyranny that wounded him: but his spirit was subdued at last, and then he was sent back, with the pope's epistle, stating, that he had returned to his saner senses; and calling him a beloved son¹⁰⁰.

⁹⁷ MS. Titus, D. 10.

⁹⁸ MS. Chron. Scrip. Anon. also extracted by Bale in Titus, D. 10, p. 182.

⁹⁹ Paul the Second's letter is dated in June 1465. MS. Tit. D. 10, p. 184.

¹⁰⁰ The pontiff's letter intitles himself, as

usual, the Servus Servorum, and is dated 22 Dec. 1468. 'Dilectum filium—per biennium et ultra carcere detineri fecimus—Is, etsi diu negans—tamen ad saniozem sensum veri intellectus rediens, &c.' MS. Tit. D. 10, p. 187.

HISTORY OF ENGLAND.

CHAP. XVI.

ATTACKS ON THE CHURCH FROM ITS PAROCHIAL CLERGY.
VICES OF THE PRELATES. SPREAD OF REFORMING OPI-
NIONS. THE DEFENDERS OF THE ESTABLISHMENT; ITS
PERSECUTIONS, AND SEVERITIES.

THE establishment was attacked still more vitally, by several of its own parochial clergy, during the reign of Henry VI. on their doctrines and rites as well as conduct. William Tailleur, a priest, preached earnestly against praying to saints. He taught that prayer to a creature was idolatry; that civil power was inconsistent with sacred perfection; that our Saviour had taught that priests should not have worldly dominion; that friars begging was a condemnable and abominable thing; that offerings to the cross were idolatry; that opinions condemned at councils, may yet be true; and that kings, princes, and good men only, are permitted by the deity, to govern, for civil purposes, their temporal kingdoms¹. He was examined in the first year of Henry VI., and confessed, that for 14 years, he had been of those sentiments².

Three years after him, in 1425, we learn from the confessions of

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¹ Wilk. Conc. V. 3, p. 407—413.

² Ib. 405.

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of the rector of Braybroke³, that he had encouraged his parishioners, not to adore the cross, nor to think confessions necessary. He had taught that if priests could convert the wafer into the deity, they could make any thing a God. That all monks, nuns, friars, and canons, were members of the Devil, not of the Supreme; and that the lords temporal ought to have all things in common. He had written books, kept schools, and formed conventicles to diffuse these opinions. The rector of Snave⁴, had also his schools and conventicles to spread his deviating sentiments.

Another priest in 1428, had, for twenty years, disseminated the opinions of Wickliff, at Oxford and London; had spoken against monks and friars; and had insisted, that the pope's indulgences, were no benefit; that it was not lawful to attack the Bohemian reformers; that all goods should be in common, and that no person ought to have any separate property⁵. At the same time we find a chaplain⁶, asserting, that the sacrament was not turned into our Saviour's body; that pilgrims would be better at home; that the legends and lives of saints were naught, and their miracles untrue; that no writings were holy but the bible; and that the pope was antichrist.

The vicar of Maunden, in Essex, in 1429, had been inculcating, that the consecrated host was true bread in nature, and was our Saviour's body but by figure; that priests could not make it the deity; that every one is a pilgrim hastening to heaven, and will reach it if he observe the divine commandments, and does works of mercy; that to place hope in images, to make vows to them, or to pray for the dead, was of no use; that all our trust should be put only in God; and that Wickliff was higher in heaven than Thomas à Becket⁷. In 1459, Reginald Peacock, whom the duke of Gloucester had promoted, and afterwards Suffolk, declared it not to be necessary to believe in the catholic church, nor in the eucharist,

³ R. Stoke. J. Wilk. Conc. 434—7.

⁴ Th. Drayton. Ib. 435.

⁵ R. Meingyn. Ib. 500, 1.

⁶ Th. Garenter. J. Wilk. Conc. 502.

⁷ Ib. 515.

eucharist, nor in councils; and that the church might err in matters of faith⁸. These instances show, that the papal system and establishment in England, were being undermined by their own members; and that the most agitating opinions, as to property, were also maintained. The schools and conventicles, which they formed, indicate that the materials of civil warfare, were, in many parts, providing; most probably unperceived by themselves, yet, with that certain result, when other causes should coincide, by these conscientious reformers.

Theoretical opinions never of themselves can disturb a country: they are meteors of mind that dart up, glare, and vanish. No hierarchy has ever been overturned by the absurdity of any of its notions; while the conduct of its members has corresponded with the sanctity of their profession. It is vice that destroys popular reverence, and rouses popular hostility. All can judge of the inconsistency of profligacy and religion; and no one can avoid being affected by this contradiction in their sacred teachers, though he may be unable or averse to investigate their doctrines. Hence, when we read of the character of the archbishop of York, who died the year that Henry VI. acceded, as drawn even by a zealous opposer of all heretics, that he acted in age as he had done in youth, and that he pursued, without restraint, his sensual and immoral propensities to the end of his life, according to his own arbitrary pleasure⁹; can we wonder that such prelates should create, in the public mind, an enmity against the church they governed; and a determined spirit of violent resistance, when that church so fiercely persecuted all that should dare to think it wrong? and yet so blind was the establishment to this inevitable effect on the public feeling, that in 1449, after indications of the coming storm had appeared, they ventured to have it stated for them in Parliament, that in divers parts of the kingdom, many priests, as well secular as religious, had been grievously vexed and

⁸ Wilk. Conc. 576.

⁹ Walsing. MS. Sloane, 1776.

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and troubled wrongfully, by divers indictments of felony, and therefore prayed—what? That any unjust prosecution might be rectified? No; but that every priest might be pardoned for all manner of felonies of rape, done before the 1st of June then *next coming*, and from all forfeitures for taking excessive salaries, provided a noble, or six shillings and eight pence, from every priest in the kingdom, were paid to the king¹⁰. It seems surprizing that men of the great intellect who then governed the church, should have permitted such a confession of criminality to be brought before parliament. It can be only explained on the ground, that they were determined not to amend their conduct; that they meant to put and keep the question upon the issue of power; that they felt they had this in their own hands, and that they had resolved to use it unshamed and unshrinking. To us who know the result, this seems infatuation both in themselves and in the government, which perished in their defence; but perhaps the evil had become so inveterate, as to be incurable by any thing short of an entire revolution of religious property, as well as of tenets; and the last extremity of battle was naturally resolved upon by those who, being in the enjoyment, would not abandon it but with life¹¹. The order of the archbishop of Canterbury, in 1455, expresses very emphatically the immoralities that were then disgracing the English church establishment¹². But excepting the issuing of monitions and prohibitions,

¹⁰ This curious petition is in the Rolls Parl. V. 5, p. 153. The king assented, '*in cas the nobles of the saide preestes be graunted to hym in the saide convocations.*' lb. The statute was made, and is printed in the Statutes of the Realm, V. 1, p. 352, the subsidy having been granted.

¹¹ Fabian mentions, that when Henry V. called 'a synod of bishops and abbots, for amending of their ill living, they, fearing their temporalities, encouraged him to war in France, to exercise him that way.' p. 490.

¹² It recites, that some rectors and vicars went as vagrants and dissolute persons,

through the kingdom, in pursuit of wordly lucre, neglecting their cures, and by feastings and drunkenness, fornications, and other vices, wasted their revenues, and left their chancels and parsonage houses unrepaired; and were not only unskilled in letters, but almost ignorant of them; had illegimate children, &c. 3 Wilk. Conc. 573, 4. In 1466, great complaints were made of the clergy by the provincial council at York, and it commanded them to avoid taverns, public spectacles, bad women, and injurious and forbidden sports and plays.

prohibitions, which became matters of course, like official proclamations against vice, neither read nor heeded. Not one effective measure was taken to suppress the evil, that was preparing such general mischief¹³.

The minds of the clergy were at this time full set towards state employment. As if religion had become really a dream, worldly business as well as worldly pleasures, became the object of all the leading ecclesiastics. To this end their studies were directed, and by such occupations their characters were formed. Clergymen were secretaries of government, the privy seals, cabinet counsellors, treasurers of the crown, ambassadors, commissioners to open parliament, and to Scotland; presidents of the king's council, supervisors of the royal works, chancellors, keepers of the records, the masters of the rolls, and even the physicians both to the king and to the duke Gloucester, during the reign of Henry VI., and afterwards¹⁴. They may have been in abilities and attainments, the fittest for these offices: many certainly were; but they could not acquire such qualifications without the sacrifice of their most sacred duties; nor enjoy the offices without a diminution of their sacred character; nor exclude from them, laymen as ambitious as themselves, without incurring the vindictive hatred of those whose advancement they precluded; neither could they give this direction to the clerical mind without destroying the public attachment to the religion they deserted¹⁵.

State employments of the clergy.

The

¹³ This seems to have been the truth; because, at all the councils of this period, and before; many efforts were made, by the sincere and worthy part of the church, to reform its palpable immoralities: but they never succeeded. Either the requisite regulations were never made, or never enforced, nor intended to be so.

¹⁴ The Rolls of Parliament, Calend. Rotul. Rymer's Federa, Tanner's Bibliotheca Monastica, Leland's Lives, and Wood's Athenæ Oxon. give many instances of all these facts.

¹⁵ The busy and promoted clergy of that day, when questioned on their secular pursuits and enjoyments, would probably have answered in sentiments somewhat similar to those expressed by the present archbishop of Cashel, in his recent and well-written charge. 'Because we are invested with a peculiar office, and bound to the discharge of peculiar duties, many expect from us a total abstinence from all interference in secular concerns; forgetful that we are individual members of society, as well as public ministers, and that we

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English
books against
the papal
system.

The laity becoming more and more disaffected to the establishment, were active instruments in diffusing what scholars preached and wrote. Books were written in English, and circulated secretly, which contained the new doctrines that proved so fatal to the church. One of the most obnoxious of these, in 1415, was "the Lantern of Light." It maintained, that the pope was anti-christ, and had attached to the law of the Redeemer, papal decrees which were of no authority, force, or value: That the archbishops and bishops were the seats of the great beast of the Revelations, who sat and reigned upon them; that their pretending to give licenses to preach, was one of his true characters, and that every priest and believer might preach without them: That the Roman court was his chief head; the prelates, his body, and the new sorts of friars, monks and canons, his tail; that ecclesiastical things should not be sumptuously adorned with gold, silver, or precious stones; nor should the ministers of Christ be otherwise than his humble imitators, adoring him in simple and midling mansions, and not in the sumptuous edifices of those days: That priests should not be occupied in churches in singing so much, but should study the scriptures, and preach them; that indulgences were unwarranted; that there should be no pilgrimage to images; that ecclesiastical ordinances benefited indifferently all who were virtuous; that Judas took the sacrament, inferring, therefore, that it was but bread and wine; that the people should not obey bishops, unless they watched over their souls in holy conversation; and that christians were persecuted chiefly from two causes—the clergy retaining

we have the same right to form our opinions, and to regulate our conduct, in that capacity, as other men, provided we take care neither to forget our station nor to degrade our character. Having the wide field of public action before our eyes, to attract our attention, and the constant recurrence of local opinions and events, to exercise our mental energies, is it possible for us not to think and act independently, like other men? Social feelings, social

interests, and social sentiments, will unavoidably, and may innocently, exert their influence over our minds.—On this delicate, but most important subject, a friendly layman can only answer, that the least possible degree of worldly business, state, and pleasures, seems to be the wisest, the safest, and the most suitable to a conscientious clergyman. But on this subject I would rather state the apology than criticize it.

retaining so much temporal property, and the begging of the friars¹⁶. This book was found in the house of a fellmonger, written in a good hand in English, on parchment, and neatly bound in red leather. He could not read, but he had it read to him; and though he had been two years confined in Conway castle, and three years in the Fleet, for his opinions, he declared unhesitatingly, to his inquisitorial examiners, that he thought it contained many things very good and useful to himself and his soul¹⁷. His servants were taken up, one confessed, that he had seen the author bring it to his master, and converse on it; and others, that it was read often on festivals before his family, and by him in his house, in St. Martin's-lane, near Aldersgate¹⁸. A volume, containing Wickliffe's tracts, belonging to sir John Oldcastle, was seised in 1413, in Paternoster-row, where it had been sent to be illuminated, which was taken, and read to Henry V., in his palace at Kennington, who, after he had heard two leaves read, protested his abhorrence of it¹⁹. Another book was taken, that came from Coventry²⁰, and works of this kind, became so formidable, that a general question was put to a person apprehended, "whether he ever had, since his abjuration, in his house or custody, *any books written in English*"²¹?"

As there was then no printing press in England, though in that century, and in the reign of Henry VI., this was introduced, it may be asked, how could these works be so dangerous? the answer may be given, that when new feelings are excited, and new opinions begin to sprout, every man whom they affect, becomes an intellectual press, teaching and influencing those about him. The countenance, gestures, mode of life, silent manners, habitual phrase, and daily conversation, become so many vehicles, which can

¹⁶ It was examined, and found to contain these doctrines. J. Wilk. 374. Its author was stated to be John Greene. Ib. 372. of a sermon preached at Horfaldowne, which was in it. Ib.

¹⁸ Ib. 373, 4.

¹⁷ Ib. 372. This was J. Claydon. The ten commandments were also with it; and he said he had much affection for it because

¹⁹ Ib. 352.

²⁰ Ib.

²¹ Ib. 372.

can be neither suppressed nor detected, for the diffusion of the new ideas, sympathies, and antipathies, which far outrun, both in celerity and impression, all the effect of the printer's labour. Every man, who has imbibed the new doctrines, becomes, often unconsciously to himself, a living book ; and his daily manners, as well as his tongue, a silent printing press. Contempt, aversion, satire, derision, invective, and hostility, were not only displayed, and communicated intentionally, by the eye, the face, the limbs, and the demeanor, as well as by the voice and words ; but even by the quiet, retired, and domestic conduct. We perceive this, by what the clergy declared to be suspicious indications of heresy ; as, to remain sitting when the cross was presented, or when others were adoring it ; not to kneel to images ; not to kiss them ; not to show marks of veneration, as processions were passing ; to visit, or to receive visits, or to have received them, from persons, who were, or had been suspected of errors : To dwell where these lived ; to have English books ; to hear them read ; to sell them ; to borrow them, or to be acquainted with those who had them²². The archbishop of Canterbury actually made it one of the good grounds of denunciation for heresy, if a man differed in life and manners, from the common conversation of the faithful²³. These circumstances show what it was, that multiplied every where the alienation of the popular mind, before printing presses were used, and will always so act, though these were annihilated, if other causes rouse inimical sympathies. It is the feeling which gives meaning, interest, and circulation, to what types and mechanical contrivances exhibit ; and which would be dumb and useless without it. It is this, which anticipates, what they only follow to gratify and confirm. New feelings in society create new mind and impulse ; and form and spread around them, new epidemias of opinion ; like heat and damp, always radiating and diffusing, and powerfully

²² Instances of these, or allusions to them, may be seen in Wilk. Concil. V. 3, pp. 374, 396, 372, 3, 434, 498, 9, &c.

²³ Wilk. Concil. V. 3, p. 378.

powerfully felt in their effects, though their agencies can be neither seen, pursued, nor prevented. The heretic may be silent and unoffending, yet his most peaceable demeanor excites the question, why does not that man do what others are taught to do? and to cause such a question, is a shaking of the old system in the mind of the inquirer, and the suggestion of something else. No law, no persecution, and no power, can preclude this effect, unless they can extirpate the dissentient; but the efforts to destroy these, have always multiplied their immediate number: and if they could, at the time, fully succeed in their extinction, the history of that success is certain to re-produce either the same evil, or a greater; even the weaker sex catch and communicate, and perpetuate the contagion²⁴. In such a day of conflict, truth, and right only can survive; and all that appertains to them, will be found to be unperishable.

An applauded act of the religion of that day, was the performance of pilgrimages, to the places where some part of a saint's body was deposited. It strikes our present feeling, like a disagreeable discord, to read of a dead corpse, which our sympathies now leave undisturbed in its solemn repose, and cannot endure to have molested, that it should be pulled to pieces out of real veneration, or for interested purposes. But yet one of the hands of Thomas Aquinas, was cut off, and given to his sister for her domestic chapel, and afterwards to the Dominicans at Salerno. One of his arms was sent to their great convent at Paris; a bone of his other arm, was given to Naples; and the rest of his body, for which Naples, Rome, the university of Paris, and many other universities, princes, and orders, had contended²⁵, was granted by the pope to be carried to Tholouse; where the king's brother, the clergy and nobility, and 150,000 people went out to meet it.

Many

Ill effects of pilgrimages.

²⁴ Thus Miss Catherine Dertford was, in 1428, suspected of heresy, about pilgrimages, the adoration of images, and the sacrament of the altar. 3 Wilk. 493.

²⁵ Alban Butler's Lives, V. 3, p. 59.

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Many places in England were venerated for such remains, or for analogous legends, and were the objects of pilgrimages in this century²⁶. We have here alluded to this custom, because a passion, at this time, seized the English public for wandering from their own pilgrim localities, to that of Saint James in Spain, and the clergy of England were so unwise, as to encourage the fashion; without perceiving, that such a journey, and all its company, intercourse, conversations, and consequences, were inimical to their domestic influence and authority; and could not but contribute to increase their depreciation. St. Gregory of Nyssa, felt those to Jerusalem in his days, to be dangerous to religious impressions²⁷. They were certain to be far more so in the reign of Henry VI. when the most hostile opinions and criticisms were in full agitation; few came back more pious; but many, more satirical and refractory²⁸.

Resistance of
the establish-
ment.

The zeal and resistance of the establishment were not disproportionate to the attack. Literary defenders started up from their body, protecting even their least defensible of tenets and practices.

Answerers

²⁶ Besides the well-known shrine at Canterbury, which our Chaucer has immortalized, we had, and still have, Winifred's well; but the Virgin at Walsingham was most frequented in the reign of Henry VI. and Edward IV. The duke of Norfolk is mentioned as going in pilgrimage, on foot, from his castle at Framlingham to Walsingham. 1 Fenn, 167. Edward himself went there in October 1475. Fenn, 5, p. 119. A Norfolk gentleman writes, 'I have vowed to go in pilgrimage to Walsingham, and to St. Leonard's (in Norwich) for you. My mother vowed another image of wax of your weight, to our lady at Walsingham.' 1 Fenn, p. 25.

²⁷ Though he says of his own visit to Jerusalem, 'When I saw these holy places, I was filled with a joy and pleasure which no tongue can express.' T. 3, p. 655. Yet, remarking the ill effects on others, he wrote, after his return, a short treatise, in which he condemns the pilgrimages that are made occasions of sloth, dissipation of mind, and other dangers. Al. Butler's Lives, V. 3, p. 101.

²⁸ The number of these pilgrimages of English persons to the Spanish saint, St. Jago in Galicia, at this time, is scarcely credible. The following are only those mentioned in two years in the king's licences for their going, which appear in Rymer's Federa, V. 10.

1434. Jan.	90	1445. Jan.	200
Feb.	850	Feb.	130
Mar.	80	Mar.	860
April,	900	April,	618
May,	750	May,	192
June,	160	June,	150
July,	50	July,	50

Even one of the ministers, the lord privy seal, in 1449, obtained a licence to undertake the pilgrimage and vows, for the salvation of his soul, and to carry 500 marcs with him. 11 Rym. 255. And cardinal Beaufort, in 4 Hen. VI. petitioned for leave to go on a pilgrimage, to which he was bound by a vow. Harl. MSS. 7,048. In April 1428, 560 went.

Answerers to Wickliff succeeded each other²⁹ with great animosity, if not with eloquence; and sturdy in the battle, if not triumphant with the victory. The university of Oxford appointed twelve magisters to examine his numerous works, and in 1412, no fewer than two hundred and sixty-seven erroneous and heretical conclusions were pointed out, all "guilty of fire." They stated to the archbishop of Canterbury, that in his diocese, Wickliff had generated so many heirs of his sect, that without the sharpest censures and the most biting hooks they would not be rooted out³⁰. A Cistercian defended the monasteries against him³¹, and in 1400 Alyngton vigorously championed the adoration of images³². But the most complete and masterly vindication of the establishment, was that of the active Carmelite, Thomas Netter, of Walden. He was educated at Oxford, and was sent by Henry IV. to the council of Pisa; where he attacked the two pontiffs whom his sovereign deemed antipopes. Becoming provincial prior of his order, he accused, in a sermon, Henry V. of sloth, in not punishing the Lollards. He was sent by him to the council of Constance to declaim against the Hussites. In 1419, he was dispatched to the king of Poland; and on his way converted to Christianity the uncivilized duke of Lithuania. In 1422, after receiving the dying breath of the conqueror of Agincourt, he was appointed confessor to Henry VI. whom he accompanied to Paris in 1430, for his coronation in France³³. His great work against the doctrines of Wickliff,

²⁹ In 1382, Th. Ashburn wrote against Wickliff's celebrated Trialogus. Tanner Bib. 52. Bankinus, an eloquent Dominican, was also an earnest opposer. Ib. 72. Gualter Dysse, a Carmelite, Rich. Lanynfans, and Rich. Maydesley, defended also some part of the assailed church. Bale, MSS. And in 1397, W. Wodeford composed many works against Wickliff, some of which still remain in the Cotton library.

³⁰ Wilkins has printed these in his Concil. V. 3, p. 339—349. They had extracted as many more, which they state that they had

omitted; and they had found several others, 'which sound and taste as badly as these; but they may be maintained in the barren war of words; we have been sparing, as to them, of the sentence of extreme condemnation. Ib. p. 339.

³¹ Adam Cisterciensis. Tanner, p. 7.

³² Leland exults in this work. He calls it a triumph over the enemy. It still exists in MS. at Oxford.

³³ Where he died at Rouen. He is sometimes called Thomas Waldensis. Wharton's Add. to Cave's Hist. Eccl. p. 75.

Wickliff, Huss, and their successors, was received with great applause, and has been several times printed on the continent³⁴.

The bigotry or zeal of Netter in the pulpit and with his pen, was equalled or outdone by archbishops Arundel and Chichely, in the more terrible exertions of their mitred influence and power.

The first prelate began the attack of the church in the last year of Henry IV. It was he who caused Wickliff's works to be examined at Oxford³⁵; and in 1412, his bones to be dug up, thrown upon a dunghill and burnt³⁶. In the next year, after the accession of Henry V. he had the tract of Wickliff consumed by fire in St. Paul's church yard³⁷; and roused the king against Sir John Oldcastle³⁸; and assisted in the convocation where the brave knight was so strictly interrogated³⁹. Although the university of Oxford, with an integrity of principle that adds honor to all its numerous claims to celebrity and applause for its distinguished science, talents, and learning, never more comparatively superior to all around it, than in the times we treat of, presented several judicious articles for the moral reformation of the church in 1414⁴⁰; yet the establishment, waving all amendment, proceeded to obtain that sanguinary statute against heretics, which disgraces the second year of the reign of Henry V. By this, the chancellor, treasurer, judges, justices of peace, sheriffs, mayors, bailiffs, and all who had any share in the administration of the laws, were required, on entering into their offices, to swear to exert their whole labour and diligence to search and destroy all manner of heresies, errors, and lollardies, with all their power, and to assist the ordinaries and their commissaries, on this subject whenever required. All persons convicted of heresies, of whatever condition,

³⁴ It is his '*Doctrinale Antiquum*,' in three volumes folio. It has been printed at Paris, in 1532; at Salamanca in 1556; and 1571 at Venice. Wharton's *Add. Cave Hist. Lit.* p. 75.

³⁵ So he says, 3 *Wilk.* 350.

³⁶ 3 *Wilk.* 351.

³⁷ *Ib.*

³⁸ *Ib.* 352, 3.

³⁹ *Ib.* 355.

⁴⁰ See them in *Wilk. Conc.* V. 3, p. 360—365.

condition, were to be delivered to the secular arm, and to forfeit all their lands and tenements. The judges and justices were empowered to inquire about all lollards and heresies; and who were their maintainers, receivers, or encouragers; who were the common writers of such books; and into their sermons, schools, conventicles, congregations, and confederacies⁴¹.

In the same spirit, Chicheley, who succeeded Arundel soon after this statute was passed in 1416, ordered all the bishops and archdeacons by themselves, their officials or commissaries, to inquire diligently at least twice a year, what persons were suspected of heresy; and in every parish where heretics were reported to dwell, to make three respectable men swear, whether they knew of any heretics holding secret conventicles, or differing in life and manners from others, or supporting errors, or having suspicious English books, or receiving suspected persons, or dwelling in such places: and to denounce, prosecute, and imprison them⁴². Few Roman emperors, most decried for their persecutions, outdid these severities. If the papal church was not able to stand against the reason and moral principle of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, it was not for want of the most tyrannous exertions of the most arbitrary power, and the most vindictive hostility.

These laws were executed with the same stern spirit that devised

⁴¹ Rolls Parl. V. 4, p. 24, 25. In Arundel's time, the establishment was so afraid of the undignified clergy, as to forbid any, even parish priests, to preach, and especially a jure scripto, from the written law, or scriptures, unless authorized. The order was, 'Let no secular or regular clergyman assume the office of preaching the word of God to the people or clergy, unless he submit to a previous examination by the diocesan: and when found fit, let him be sent to some one certain parish. If any violate this statute, he shall incur the greater excommunication; and if he persist, he shall be reputed schismatic, and incur all the effect of the law, and all the

pains of heresy and schism: so shall their aiders, receivers, or defenders. No preacher shall call in doubt what the church has decreed, nor its doctrines, decretals, or provincial constitutions, nor dispute on them, nor teach against the adoration of the cross; veneration of images, or pilgrimages to places or relics; but shall recommend these, and the usual processions, kneeling, bowings, incensings, kisses, oblations, and lights.' Excommunication was the first punishment, and confiscation of property the next. Lynde-woode's Constit.

⁴² 3 Wilk. Conc. 378.

BOOK

I.

devised them. The persons apprehended in 1414, at St. Giles, with Oldcastle, were hung and burnt, with the exultation of the persecuting party⁴³, and with public processions and litanies, by Henry the fifth's approbation and command and mental rejoicing⁴⁴. The hierarchy pursued sir John Oldcastle for three years, till they burnt him in 1417⁴⁵: and in most of the following years, some heretics were burnt in Smithfield or Towerhill. There were continual prosecutions for their opinions⁴⁶.

The establishment did not even spare its own prelates, who deviated from its prescribed tenets. Reginald Peacock, a bishop, who held some obnoxious sentiments, was arrested in his old age, and sent to the abbey of Thorney, with minute instructions, from the archbishop of Canterbury, as to his treatment in his confinement. Being a dignitary of the church, though these orders subjected him to privations that he must have strongly felt, they were not painfully rigorous, but rather indulgent⁴⁷.

But

⁴³ T. Elmham seems quite delighted to record, both in his metrical Latin and his prose, their unsparing execution. p. 94. He gives the most singular explanation of the number 666 in the Revelations, that I have seen. He says, it points out sir John Oldcastle. Ib.

⁴⁴ 'Quod fiunt processiones, cum litanis, a clero et populo ad regis mandatum.' He illustrates this sentence with his verses:

'Cum precibus clerus procedit, rege jubente,
Et populus sequitur, ordine quisque suo,
Regia mens gaudet; præ plebs letatur et omnes.' Elm. 94.

⁴⁵ Rolls Parl. V. 4, p. 109.

⁴⁶ Some of these prosecutions are printed in Wilkins's Concilia. They relate to the following persons: of these several were burnt. Vol. 3.

1419. R. Owtrede, p. 394.

W. Browne,

R. Wyche, p. 395.

1420. W. James, p. 397.

1422. W. Taylour, p. 404.

1425. Hatton,
Fleming, p. 433.

W. Russell, p. 434.

R. Hoke,

J. Drayton, p. 435.

1426. T. Richmond, p. 487.

1428. J. Jourdelay,

C. Dertford, p. 493.

R. Ruten, p. 494.

W. Harvey,

J. Calle,

R. Meingyn, p. 497.

R. Monk,

T. Garentyr, p. 499.

1429. Sir Thos. Bagley, p. 515.

Also, John Bismere was burnt, 16 H. VI.; and Bredon, a minor, was punished, 24 H. VI. Harl. 7,048. In 1428, W. White was burnt. In 1430, R. Hounden, and two others. In 1438, a priest, and in 1440, another of much fame, called Sir Richard, were all burnt, besides others. Cowper Chron. Fabian.

⁴⁷ '1. He shall have a secret, closed chamber, having a chimney and convenience within

But the support of the establishment, was not intrusted merely to sermons, severities, or controversial logic. The poetry of the day was called in to its aid. Metrical verses against lollards were part of the devices of their pageantry, and state banquets⁴⁸; and even ballads were written to stigmatize and burlesque them⁴⁹.

CHAP.
XVI.

In

within the abbey, where he may have sight to some altar, to hear mass; and that he pass not the said chamber.

‘ 2. To have but one person that is sad and well disposed, to make his bed, and to make him fire, as it shall need.

‘ 3. That he have no books to look on, but only a portuos, a mass-book, a psalter, a legend, and a bible.

‘ 4. That he have nothing to write with; no stuff to write upon.

‘ 5. That he have competent fuel, according to his age, and as his necessity shall require.

‘ 6. That he be served daily of meat, and dined, as a brother of the abbey is served when he is excused from the freytour; and somewhat better, after, as his disposition and reasonable appetite shall desire, conveniently after the good discretion of the said abbot.’
£.40 was assigned to the abbey for his finding.
Harl. MSS. 7,048.

⁴⁸ See before, p. 119.

⁴⁹ One of these, obviously composed on sir John Oldcastle, is preserved in the Cotton library, Vespas. B. 16, of which I shall modernize part of the orthography. It attempts some awkward witticisms on the knight's name.

‘ He that can be Christes clerk
And know the knotts of his creed,
Now may see a wonder work,
Of hard haps to take good heed.
The doom of death is heavy drede
For him that would not mercy try.
Then is my rede,
For muck nor mede,
That no man melle of* lollardrie.
I say for myself that wist I never
But now, late, what it should be;

* Meddle with.

† Many spirits.

‡ Was bearing.

G G 2

Every

And by my troth, I have well lever
No more ken than my a, b, c.
To *lolle* so hie, in such degree;
It is no profit, perfecie;
Come; seek example to thee given
To beware of lollardrie.

The game is nought, to *lolle* so hie
That feet fail fondement.
And that it is a much folly
For false belief to be brent; (burnt)
That the bible is always went (wont)
To jangle of Job, or Jeremie;
That construe it after their intent,
For lower lust of lollardrie.

It is unkindly for a knight
That should a king's castle keep,
To babble the bible day and night,
In resting time, when he should sleep.
And carefully away to trepe
For all the chief of chivalry.
Well ought he to wail and weep,
That such lust hath in lollardrie.

AN OLD-CASTLE was not repaired
With wasted walls that waver wide.
The wages he full evil wared
With such a captain to abide.
That rereth not, for to ride
Against the king and his clergy:
With prue, poyne, and poor pride,
There is a point of lollardie.

For many a man within a while
Shall abide his guilt full sore.
So fele† gostes to beguile,
He ought to rue evermore.
For his sorrow shall he never restore
What he venomed with envy,
But ban the burthen that he was of bore‡,
Or ever has lust in lollardrie.

BOOK

I.

In resolving to persecute, imprison, and destroy, the possessed church acted, but as all possessed power has done, in every age, and under every system, whether civil or ecclesiastical; christian,

Every sheep that should be fed in field
And kept from wolf in his fold;
He needs neither spear nor shield,
Nor in no Castle to be withhold.
For that the pasture is full cold,
In some season when it is dry.
And namely, when the soil is sold
For lewde lust of lollardrie.

An Old-castle drew all down;
It is full hard to rear it new;
With such a congregation
That cast them to be untrue.
Who prays, will never bake nor brew,
Nor have wherewith to borrow nor buy,
Then may rot*, rob or rue
Under the colour of lollardrie.

That castle is not for a king
That the walls be overthrown.
And that, well worse abiding,
When the captain away is flown,
And forsakes spear and mail
To creep from knighthood into clergy.
That is a bitter blast yblown
To be bold of lollardrie.

I trow that be no knight alive,
That would have done so open a shame.
For that craft to study or strive,
It is no gentleman's game.
But if him lief to have a name
Of pilour under ipography.
And that were a foul defame
To have such love of lollardrie.

And, parde, lolle they never so long,
They that know law, make them loute.
God will not suffer them to be so strong,
To bring their purpose so about,
With savour foul and savour douce,
To reve, rot and robbery.
By reason thou shalt not long route,
While the tail is docked of lollardrie.

Of the head it is less charge,
When grace will not be his guide;

Nor suffer him for to leap at large,
But heavily his head to hide.
Where should he over-joust or ride
Against the chief of chivalrie.
Not hardy in no place to abide,
For all the sect of lollardrie.

O, God! what unkindly ghost
Should grieve that God grudged nought
These lollards that loth images most
With man's hands, made and wrought,
And pilgrimages to be sought,
They say it is but mawmentrie.
He that this lore first up brought,
Had great lust in lollardrie:

He was full lewde that would believe,
In figure made of stock or stone:
That none should desire reprieve
Never of Mary; nor of John;
Peter; Paul; nor other man;
Canonized by clergy.
Then, the saints, every one,
Be little beholden to lollardrie.

And namely James among them all,
For he twice had judgment:
Much mischance may him befall
That last beheaded him in Kent.
And all that were of that assent,
To Christ of heaven and clepe and cry;
Send them the same judgment
And all the sect of lollardrie.

For that vengeance against kind
Was a point of cowardice;
And namely, such one to beat or bind
That they might not stand, sit nor rise.
What doom would ye him devise
By law of arms or gentry:
But serve him in the same wise
All the sect of lollardrie.

When falshood fails the foul folly,
Pride will pursue soon among,
Then willer-dome with old envy
Can no other way but wrong.

* Plunder.

christian, infidel, or pagan. The resenting feelings of the natural man, are those of the wolf and the mastiff, against all who oppose or endanger. Alarmed and affronted self-love, rushes into violence, becomes conscientiously vindictive, and delights to punish the obstinacy that resists; the censure that mortifies, and the hostility that would dispossess it. The worldly leaders of the papal hierarchy, therefore, only did to their rising opponents, what these, as far as they were actuated by worldly motives, would have as un pityingly, and according to their self-flattering notions, as rightfully retaliated, if their power could have given efficacy to their will. As far as self-interest was the motive of either, the assailant and assailed, however mutually abusive, and mutually wrong, were equally reprehensible. When the emoluments of this world become the object of the contest; the dungeon and the gibbet, the sword and the stake, and in more barbarous times or countries, torture and cruelty, are its natural allies, and the ultimate deciders.

But the ecclesiastical statesmen of Henry's cabinet, did not sufficiently

For sin and shame with sorrow strong,
That false belief is fain to fong
The lewde lust of lollardie.

And under colour of such *lollyng*
To shape sudden insurrection
Against our liege lord king,
With false imagination;
And for the cursed conclusion
By dome of knighthood and clergy,
Now trueth to confusion,
The sorry sect of lollardie.

For holy writ beith witness,
He that false is to his king,
That shameful death and hard distress,
Shall be his dome at his ending.
Then *double death* for such *lollyng*
Is heavy when we shall heav'n eye.
Now, Lord, that madest of nought all
things
Defend us all from lollardie.

I consider this ballad to lead us to the real

derivation of Lollard, which has been so much contested. It shows, that it was not taken from a man's name; as it gives us the verb from which it originated; To *lolle*. I cannot yet ascertain the meaning of this word. It is neither Saxon, nor old English, nor German, nor Norman French. In Welsh, *llol* means foolish idle talk; and *llolian* and *lloliaw*, to babble and prate. This derivation would make lollard to imply a babbler. If the common English word to loll, or to lean idly, were the origin, then the term would express, an idler; but I think it must have some more express and applicable meaning. *Lollo*, in the Lapland language, is jealousy. *Lol*, in Persian, is shameless; and *lowlow*, frivolous. I have not had an opportunity of seeing whether the Bohemian language, from which it is more likely to have come, gives a more probable derivation. Lollard is not one of the twenty-five names of heretics mentioned in the edicts of the emperor Frederick II. See Hist. Engl. V. 2, p. 393.

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I.

sufficiently discern, that the participation of the property of the church, was not the aim of all who now opposed or dissented from it. The disinterested reason and piety, unsullied by any hope of profit, were daily separating from it. Many minds were perceiving, and many hearts were feeling, that papal christianity was not the christianity of our Saviour and his apostles; and that the established hierarchy, and its artificial ramifications and appendages, had become the subverting contrast, instead of the beneficial resemblance, or continuation, of what the great founders had taught and instituted. To combat the criticisms, and to menace the disapprobation of such men with the terrors of persecution, was but making enthusiasm their duty, and suffering their happiness. Persecution has ever been powerless against sincerity: and from the presentation to the world of their heroic example; from diffusing the publicity of their objections; from rousing the attention of the indifferent, and from the irresistible sympathies, which inflicted cruelties, supported by fortitude, and not merited by what the populace deem moral guilt, always excite, persecution continually multiplies its enemies. Terror makes no impression upon an excited mind. The feeling of the martyrs, who, like the Indians of North America, so often defied their tormentors to increase their tortures, is the natural emotion of the enthusiastic spirit. Persecution, therefore, never overcomes true piety or conscientious resolution. It may annihilate the sordid, the capricious, and the hypocrite, and drive them from the ranks of the better spirits, whom they disgrace by their co-operation; but it always has been, and always will be defeated by sincere faith, truth, rectitude, patience, and resignation. The natural results of these virtues are ever operating to produce the victory; and a superior benediction never fails to ensure it.

But abstracted from these considerations, and from the ultimate results, persecution tends to occasion immediate evils to all who use it, of which they have frequently become the victims. It drives

the

the opposed from the public exhibition of themselves and of their actions into secret societies, secret combinations, secret meetings, and secret conversations, in which mind is kindled by mystery, and extravagance is fostered both by the seclusion and the exigence. Fear begets hatred; endurance, impatience; privation, spleen; and personal sufferings, an eagerness for revenge. Prohibition never changes the will, though it may coerce the conduct. Secret assemblies bring men together, who would have never else become acquainted; and severities combine those in temporary harmony, whom their mental and moral differences would, until driven into contriving privacy, and mutual danger, have always kept asunder. Persecution thus produces confederacies, and makes disloyalty creditable, till the criminality of treason becomes determined by its success; and is actually varied by law, as each party triumphs. What government could be safe, or what country happy, in such a state of things!

The reigns of Henry VI. and Edward IV. afford a melancholy illustration of all the ill effects of both religious and political persecutions; and as violence so generally fails, and is so often pernicious to its employers, how much wiser would it be, in the unfortunate periods of these mental collisions, to try to separate the conscientious from the interested; and to concede such improvements and reforms as the most dispassioned minds of both parties, looking only at truth, reason, and utility, and suspending all personal considerations, would agree to be wise and necessary! Much that is obsolete, unimportant, offensive, or injurious, becomes progressively attached to all establishments; and might be pruned with advantage, both to themselves and to their contemporaries. Such meliorations would take away the largest portion of the actual grievances, and pernicious evils, which while man exists as he is, will be always arising from his former errors, present ignorance, and the course of time; and which no one ought to wish to continue: this conduct would satisfy and tranquillize the well meaning,

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I.

meaning, and the sincere; who amid all their mistakes, are ever the great bulwarks of society, and are those whose countenance and feeling give the greatest danger to public clamor and political opposition. While these are kept steady, the more noisy and boisterous will but fret and fume, without real danger or effective power. To act otherwise is to fight the battle against nature and providence, two adversaries but little adverted to, yet against whose unceasing agency, although governments, hierarchies, and nations, have often struggled, it has been but to be defeated with irreparable discomfiture and annihilating destruction⁵⁰.

But no inquisitorial rigors, imprisonments, or burnings availed. Cruelty excites too much sympathy, curiosity, indignation, fortitude, enthusiasm, disinterestedness, and impassioned determination; and proves too clearly the fears, the heartlessness, and the unworthiness of its abettors to be of lasting service. Notwithstanding all these violent applications of unrestricted power, yet year after year, complaints were expressed in parliament of the increase and dangerous effects of heresy and heretics, in language which implies diffusing pertinacity among the people, and greater alarm in the government. In 1415, the year after Oldcastle's arrest, a petition of the Commons states, that great and intolerable errors and heresies, and rebellions, and obstinations against the king, against the ancient doctrine of their holy fathers, and the determination of the church, were continually rising up among the common people⁵¹.

Two

⁵⁰ The wisdom and moral beauty of the following remarks of the present archbishop of Cashel, deserve to be long remembered. 'We embrace that peculiar code of faith, and adhere to that peculiar religious community, to which God has attached us, and which our conscience approves: but in the house of our Heavenly Father there are many mansions. On speculative points, speculative men will differ; but whatsoever zeal may be displayed in the support of specific tenets, that zeal should never be stimulated to excess by an overweening conceit in our own, or by

an uncharitable contempt of every other opinion. Disciples of the cross, the characteristic badge of our profession affords us one common bond of union. As Christians, we owe to all who are designated by that blessed name, fraternal affection; and to mankind in general, without distinction of persons or creeds, universal benevolence.' Prim. Visit. Charge.—If these noble sentiments governed the world, there would be no religious wars, no religious persecutions, and no religious discord.

⁵¹ Rolls Parl. 4, p. 81.

Two years afterwards, the parliamentary record recites that many subjects vulgarly called Lollards, machinated to annul the royal dignity, the state, and offices of the prelates, and the orders of the religious; to kill the king and bishops, to excite the monks and friars to leave the divine service for worldly occupations, and to spoil cathedral churches, and monasteries, and convents of their relics and goods⁵². This document is the statute which directed Oldcastle to be burnt, and mentions that nearly four years before, 20,000 men, from various parts of England, had assembled in a great field, near St. Giles, to execute their purposes. That they meant to pursue some violent measures against the possessed church seems probable; but the allegation that they intended to kill the king, and make Oldcastle the regent of the land, is not credible⁵³. Some years before, in 1409, we find a disposition in many to attack the clergy⁵⁴. All sorts of illegal violences were now attributed to the lollards. The petition which asserted that divers malefactors in various parts of the kingdom, collected in multitudes armed to make war, broke into parks, and chases; wounded the keepers, and ousted many of their free tenements; also added, that they were *probably* of the opinions of the lollards, all lying maliciously in wait, or traitorously purposing to make insurrection or subversion of the catholic faith⁵⁵. Eight years afterwards, in 1425, the bishop of Winchester still inveighed from the throne against heresy and lollardism⁵⁶. As the bishop of Bath and Wells, likewise still more urgently in 1432⁵⁷.

But although the resolute persecutions of the church failed to extirpate

⁵² Rolls Parl. 4, p. 109.

⁵³ Ib. p. 109. Rous, who lived near this time, states their imputed objects more probably. He says, they purposed to have kept the king under their subjection, and after, *by his authority*, to have destroyed the church of England, and to slay the prelates, and distribute their possessions after their indiscreet advices and pleasure. It was to the

earl of Warwick that secret information was given of their intent; and he persuaded the king to intercept and disperse them. Ross Hist. E. Warw. p. 212.

⁵⁴ See Fab. 316.

⁵⁵ Rolls Parl. 4, p. 114.

⁵⁶ Ib. 290.

⁵⁷ Ib. 388.

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I.

extirpate the new opinions, they seem to have created an insurrectionary mind, in those whom they endangered. In 1430, the lollards, and their friends, are represented as sending messengers into various parts, exhorting the people to rise up against the clergy, and to seize their property. At Abingdon, a seditious meeting assembled, to pull down the monastery there, and chose their captain; but the lord protector being apprized of it, arrested, and beheaded the bailiff; and many of his party were hung up before the building⁵⁸. The movement seems to have been extensive, for it is mentioned, that others of his supporters were executed in divers places and countries⁵⁹. So little diminution of the evil was produced by the severities of the church, that in 1440, after a priest had been burnt for heresy, on Tower-hill, the people crowded afterwards to the place of his execution, and made oblations and prayers there; and by night, raised a great heap of stones, and placed a cross upon it. So many went on pilgrimage to it, that the king ordered the mayor to prevent, and punish the enthusiastic visitors. The old chronicler adds, "so that by this means, a great dislander ran upon the church, and specially upon such as had put him to death"⁶⁰.

From all these facts it is evident, that a large proportion of the population of the country, was fully disposed for a state of battle with the ecclesiastical establishment which assailed them, and with the government, that supported it⁶¹. The materials for a civil war, on this ground, were every where accumulating; and the dissaffected only waited for a convenient opportunity, a plausible pretext, other popular irritations against the existing administrations, auxiliaries that could meet the first brunt of insulted power, and a chief of name, connections and power, sufficient to assure, or to begin the chances of success. Authority prosecuted, and

⁵⁸ Wals. MSS. Sloane, 1776. Fabian, 422.

⁵⁹ Fab. 422.

⁶⁰ Fab. 436.

⁶¹ The warring state of mind which per-

vaded the kingdom at this time, is implied by the monk of Croyland's declaration, that the divisions of the kingdom were pervading every chapter, college, and convent. 529.

and chastised till it destroyed all loyalty and veneration; and converted peaceful obscurity into vindictive rebellion⁶².

CHAP.
XVI.

⁶² The severity to which the confiscation of the property of heretics was carried, if it failed to extirpate the heresy, could not fail to exasperate the public mind against the persecutors. The property of an heretic, had been ordered to be divided into three parts; one to the secular power, another to the city in which he was condemned, and a third to *his judge*. But in England, in 1430, when Lyndewoode wrote, the whole went to the king; this was sufficiently distressing; but the retroaction of this confiscation, was most revolting. Lyndewood puts it as a question: 'if a man should have been ten years an heretic, concealed; and should not, even in his life, be condemned for heresy; but should in the mean time, have given bonds, or alienated his possessions; and it should afterwards be discovered, that he had been an heretic; would his alienations and his bonds

be void? the answer given is, that they would be void, and could not prevent the forfeiture; because, from the day that he fell into the heresy, his property became confiscated by the law; and must be forfeited to the crown: and from that time he lost all power of disposing of it.' Lyndew. Constit. Provinc. This author has given thirty double folio pages to his exhibition of the ordinances against heretics, and to his explaining commentary upon them; an indication, that those laws were then in great operation. He finished his elaborate work; one of our first and fullest on ecclesiastical law in England—in 1430. He may be called the lord Coke of the English church. When we think of these inflictions, it seems wonderful, that our ancestors had fortitude and perseverance enough to accomplish the emancipation of their conscience, and just freedom from tyranny so unsparing.

BOOK
I

HISTORY

OF

ENGLAND.

CHAP. XVII.

COMPETITION OF YORK AND SOMERSET.

BOOK.
I.

THE deaths of Winchester, Suffolk, and the other obnoxious members of the administration, and royal household, did not change the measures of government. The cardinal of York survived, and the disastrous effects of mob-government satisfying every one, that the populace would be destroyers, not reformers, the queen recovered her influence. The ministry was again modelled to suit the politics of her own views and party, and of the possessioned church; and the opposing portion of the nation finding no improvement practicable under Henry, began seriously to look forward to the hope of a new reign and the introduction of a new dynasty. Both of these, as Henry was yet childless, were certain of occurring on his demise, because the duke of York was the next presumptive heir, from another descent. But others saw that their effect was attainable in the king's lifetime, by this nobleman's regency, without disturbing the royal dignity. If Gloucester had lived, the succession would have been demanded by him; but his death left York no competitors except in the house of Somerset, every member of which resisted him, till generation after generation of this unfortunate family was successively

successively extinguished. The Somersets assumed themselves to be the representatives of the Lancastrian line when Henry the sixth's issue failed; and stood, therefore, invariably on its side, during all the conflicts that ensued both for the regency and the throne. When the incapacity for government, in which Henry had been educated and kept, was found to continue, a patriotic regency became the desire of the nation; and at first the general wish extended no further. The public eye then turned to York as the fittest to take this station, which he claimed as his birth-right, as he did afterwards the crown; and the following sketch will show how far his pretensions to either were founded.

The duke united in himself two branches, one paternal, the other maternal, of the posterity of Edward III. This sovereign's *fifth* son, Edmund, had left two children¹, of whom the eldest fell, without issue, at Agincourt, and the other, the earl of Cambridge, had married the grand daughter and heiress of the same king's *third* son Lionel; and the heir of this marriage was the duke of York², who became the competitor of Henry VI.

Henry was descended from Edward's *fourth* son, John of Gaunt, the Duke of Lancaster³. If York had possessed only the right of his paternal ancestry, Henry and John of Gaunt's descendants would have had the anterior title; but York uniting also the earlier maternal line of descent, became, by that, as the first son's posterity ended in Richard II., the heir of Edward III., and therefore of the crown; before the Henry's could, by mere legal inheritance, succeed to it: hence so far as the question rested on the ancient common law of the country, in its general rules of

¹ Edmund, the son of Edward III., and first duke of York, died 1 Aug. 1402. By Isabella, a Spanish princess, daughter of Pedro the Cruel, he had these two sons. The wills of the two first dukes of York are published among the Royal and Noble Wills, pp. 187 and 219. The second son of Edward III. left no issue.

² Lionel, created by his father, Edward III

duke of Clarence, had only one daughter, Philippa, who married Roger Mortimer, the earl of March. Their children were, Edmund, who died without issue, and Anne, who married Richard earl of Cambridge, and by her brother's death became the heiress of Lionel. Her right descended to her son the duke of York, who was father to Edward IV.

³ See his will. Royal Wills, 148.

BOOK

III.

of inheritance, the duke of York had a title to the English throne superior to that of Henry himself.

But the parliament had chosen to disturb the direct line of succession by deposing Richard II., and by transferring the crown to Henry IV. and his issue. At that time the earl of March, the grandson of Lionel, was in reality the legal heir of Richard if he left no issue; and during his life was so declared by parliament, and as such was designated to the throne⁴. But the great ecclesiastical and other interests, which had called Henry IV. to his invasion, chose to pass by the rights of the earl of March, and for their own purposes to enthrone Henry. This violation of its legal claims was not forgiven nor forgotten by the family. It was to raise the earl of March's son to the crown instead of Henry V. who had acceded to his prejudice, that the earl of Cambridge entered into those plots for which he suffered⁵. And in the beginning of Henry the sixth's reign, another of the March family, sir John Mortimer, asserting, at least in argument, its superior rights, was apprehended and executed⁶. The duke of York had therefore the actual right to the crown, according to the English laws of real inheritance. But the house of Lancaster stood on the constitutional ground of parliamentary enactment. It was precisely the same question that existed between the house of Stuart and the house of Brunswick. The parliamentary title was with George II.; the legal common law title with the Pretender, who invaded him⁷.

his

⁴ He was so proclaimed in the ninth year of Richard II. *Lel. Col. V. 2*, p. 481, and *5 Parl. R.* 484.

⁵ The autograph of his confession and address to Henry V. is in the Cotton Library, *Vesp. C. 14*; and shows Monstrelet's correct information on the subject, in his *V. 4*, p. 141.

⁶ *Fab.* 410, 411.

⁷ On the comparison of the adverse claims of the Yorkists and Lancastrians to the throne, we may remark, that although monarchy, with parliaments, has always been the consti-

tution of this country, yet almost every dynasty that has been on the throne has acceded or reigned by parliamentary right, against hereditary right. William the Conqueror was elected, or admitted, to the prejudice of the ancient Saxon heir, Edgar Etheling. His son Henry I. was made king by the parliament, against his elder brother Robert's right, and procured his own family to be appointed to succeed him, to the exclusion of Robert's son. From Henry I. proceeded his grandson Henry II. and all our subsequent sovereigns.

But

The parliament having settled the crown in the Lancastrian line, while the duke of Gloucester lived, he also stood between the throne and York, because he would have succeeded to it on the parliamentary title. But his death put York into a new and formidable state of right, which seems not to have been adverted to by those, who so eagerly struck down Gloucester. By this nobleman's death, Henry VI. then having no issue, York actually stood as the presumptive heir to Henry VI. himself, excepting so far as the Somersets could interfere, who were tainted with illegitimacy, a disabling brand in that day of proud nobility⁸. So that in the year 1451, when he claimed the regency, he was both the presumptive heir to the crown, and to Henry, on the parliamentary right, and also by natural descent; and was actually intitled to the crown itself, according to the country's common law of lineal succession, in preference to Henry. This combination of immediate right

But the hereditary succession of this dynasty was again changed, on the death of Richard I. by the parliament giving the crown to John, to the disinheritance of his elder brother's son. Parliament deposed Edward II. to give the crown to his son Edward III.; and when it compelled Richard II. to resign, instead of letting the natural heir by inheritance, the earl of March, the living descendant of his eldest brother, succeed, it gave the crown to Henry IV. the son of a younger brother; and both Henry V. and VI. reigned to the prejudice of the hereditary right of the excluded family. When the parliament made Edward IV. king, the parliamentary and hereditary rights became united. They were again severed when Richard III. was made king; and also, when the crown was transferred, by parliament, to Henry VII. until Elizabeth, the daughter of Edward IV. was crowned. Henry VIII. as her son, united the two rights, and when her male line failed, the Stuarts acceded from her daughter. William III., Ann, and the Brunswicks, were also enthroned by parliamentary, against hereditary right. Therefore Henry VI. in reigning by his par-

liamentary title, had the practical constitution of the country in his favor.

⁸ Catherine Swinford, though she became the third wife of John of Gaunt, was not married to him, when John Beaufort, his eldest son by her, and cardinal Beaufort, were born. They were consequently illegitimate at their birth. Parliament afterwards enacted their legitimacy, which may have answered the legal purposes for all questions of property, but could not remove the fact of the native imperfection. This eldest son, whose will is printed (Royal Wills, p. 208), died in 1410, leaving four sons besides daughters. The first, born 1401, died 1418. The second, John, made duke of Somerset, 21 H. VI. was the one who killed himself, and whose daughter married the uterine brother of Henry VI., by queen Catherine, and Owen Tudor; the third Edmund, became duke of Somerset on his brother's death, without issue male, in 1448, and fell at St. Albans, in 1455, when his son succeeded to his title, and became, like him, the steady adherent of Henry and Margaret, till he was beheaded at Tewkesbury, in 1471.

BOOK

I.

right of possession, and of presumptive right of succession was, of all other things, the most adapted to bring the volcanic state of the country, into an explosive eruption; because it would satisfy the consciences of so many, whose moral feelings would have otherwise controlled their angry passions, and have kept them from all seditious and insurrectionary violence. But when the house of Lancaster tried to govern without parliament, or to force that by violence and trick to comply with its will, it shook its own right—the artificial parliamentary one—and made it seem virtue to many, to assert and rescue the privileges of conscience, and the constitutional liberties of the country, by putting the duke of York into the regency, even with treasonable violence; as the state capacity of the sovereign notoriously required some directing superintendence. No treason can be vindicated, but it may be accounted for. The truly consciencious will never commit it; but when reasons and plausibilities exist, that deceive the moral sense into an acquiescence with their predominant inclinations, treason loses its criminal and abhorrent aspect; and the mental sophistication mistakes rebellion for a patriotic duty.

When Henry VI. acceded, the earl of March, brother of the duke's mother, had the lineal right to the crown. He was fond of appearing with a retinue, exceeding that of other noblemen; and to remove him from the gaze of the English populace, he was appointed lord lieutenant of Ireland, and within six months afterwards, died in that country⁹. The duke of York was then too young, not only to be dangerous, but to be even an object of suspicion. He was knighted with the king, and after the duke of Bedford's death, was sent to Normandy as the governor of France, or rather of so much of it as could be still retained. The absurdity of the appointment, as to its efficiency, is manifest by his military superintendants, keeping him inactive, because he was too young to act usefully¹⁰. But when much older, in 1435, he went to France

⁹ Wals. MSS. Sloane, 1776.

¹⁰ Wals. MSS. This was in 1428, 9. ib.

and he was not of age in 1432. Rolls. Parl. 4, p. 397.

France with 8,000 men¹¹, after the loss of Harfleur, and acted with creditable skill and valor. Three years after, he returned; and in July 1440, he was sent again as regent for five years¹².

His government of this country having been so far approved of, as to occasion his re-appointment, the duke of Somerset, who had been released from fifteen years of imprisonment, in France, coveting the same honor, secretly applied for it. His interest with the queen, and her friends, procured the revocation of York's nomination, and the royal grant of it to himself. Supplanted by an intrigue, which he thought to be crafty and ungenerous, York was indignant at the insult and disappointment; and an inextinguishable hatred grew up in his bosom against this John duke of Somerset, craving for some dire revenge¹³, which an incident in Normandy directed on his brother. John duke of Somerset, died in March 1448¹⁴, when his brother, Edmund, succeeded to his title and station. The gradual loss of every Norman town and fortress, made his regency unpopular¹⁵. The English forces may have been insufficient to man the military posts, face the enemy, and keep down the dissatisfied country; but this Somerset was

¹¹ Will. Wyrcestre, 457. On York's actions in France, see Monstrel. V. 7, p. 396, V. 8. p. 188, 284, 287—297.

¹² Rym. Fed. 10, p. 786. In the Cotton MSS. Nero, C. 10, is a page in Edward the sixth's hand writing, interesting for being this king's note, for his own information of the articles desired by the duke of York, for his government of France, on this appointment. It is thus: "Articles desired by the duke of York, for the government of Fraunce, 18 Henry VI. 1. To have the like power or command the duke of Bedford had. 2. To have 3 of theis 9 of every estate, on to be of counsel of Fraunce.

Bishop of Lincoln,	Viscount Bemont.
Bishop of Norwich,	The lord Fannhope.
Bishop of Salisbury,	The lord Hungerford,
Sir Rauf Botiller,	Sir Tho. Popham,
Sir Tho. Stourton.	

A copy of these articles, at length, may be seen in W. Wyrcestre's MSS. addressed by his son to Edw. IV. among the MSS. of the Antiq. Society, No. 41, but they are dated 1445.

¹³ Croyl. 518. Chron. of Jo. de Whet-hamstede, the abbot of St. Albans, at this time, published by Hearne, V. 2, p. 346. Somerset was made duke from earl of Somerset, in 1443. He was redeemed in 21 H. VI. Wals. MSS. For his actions in France, in 1439 and 1440, while earl; See Monst. V. 8, p. 181; 200—10; and for his conduct afterwards, when governor. See ib. 348.

¹⁴ See before p. 154.

¹⁵ He was the nephew whom cardinal Beaufort had appointed to head his Bohemian crusade. See before p. 25. On the disasters in France, under his command, see Monst. V. 9, p. 60—87.

BOOK

I.

28 April,
1450.

Siege of
Caen.

was suspected of keeping fewer numbers than he was paid for¹⁶. The siege of Caen supplied the tongue of public slander, with an accusation, and the resentment of York, with a personal quarrel, as great as he had felt against the preceding duke. York, by the king's gift, had become the owner of this town, and had left it under the command of sir David Hall.

After the last struggle, and deciding defeat, at Formigny, in which above 3,000 English perished, and 800 were taken prisoners¹⁷, the king of France collected his forces to besiege Caen, to which the duke of Somerset, and his wife and family, had retired. He environed the town on every side. The English within observed their approaches in silence, but every man was at his loophole, and every captain at his post of superintendence. The French leaders had each different points of the town assigned for their several, but combined attacks; and with their quarrels, morispikes, slings, and other engines, began the assault. While some of the defenders shot fiercely with their long bows, others cast darts, and rolled down great stones, and bars of iron; at the same time javelins, firebrands, hot lead, and blocks, with flaming pitch and brimstone, flew with deadly activity among the assailants; great rolls of moving and unsteadfast timber were also hung over the battlements, that no scaling ladder might catch a firm hold, nor any person climb with a sure footing; and if any scaling ladders became fixed on the walls, men were ready to overturn them, or strike down those who reached the summit. The king of France, exasperated by the successful resistance, sent to Paris for his great ordnance, resolved not to quit the town till he had reduced it by sword or famine.

His heavy artillery was daily discharged at the walls; did some damage

¹⁶ Hall's Chron. 216.

¹⁷ Monst. 9, p. 108—14. His statements are unaccountably disgraceful to the English. Their army 6 to 7,000 men; the French, according to the report of the heralds, but 3,000. The English lost 3,773 persons; the French but 8. The early flight of two

of the English captains, which caused the defeat, looks like premeditated treachery. Sir Robert Vere was one of these. The instructions of sir John Falstoff, in Wyr. MSS. Antiq. Soc. MSS. N° 41, refer the defeat to the divisions of the leaders, and the petty captains negligently tarrying.

damage to the town, but none to the castle, which stood on a rock, nor to the strong dungeon within it; but the shot was more alarming than injurious. One day a stone flew into the town and fell between the dutchess of Somerset and her children. Terrified by their danger and her own, she flew to her husband and implored him to save them. Affected by her intreaties, the duke assembled the magistrates of the town, and recommended them to surrender it. Sir David Hall reminded him, that although he was the king's lieutenant-general of the province, yet he had no right to talk of giving up the place. "This appertains to my lord and master, Richard duke of York, who hath given to me the custody of it, and with the divine help, I shall well defend it against the French king, and all his puissance, until my master succor me; for of men, money, and munitions, I trust I have sufficient." The duke insisted on his power as representing the king's person. The faithful commander closed the discussion with a firm refusal to permit him to yield up the town without the duke of York's authority. Somerset is charged with inciting the town's people to an insurrection against sir David; and surrendered Caen to the French king, on the condition that his family and himself might depart in safety, with all their property¹⁸. Sir David refused to be included in the composition, and sailed to the duke of York, in Ireland, with a detail of the proceedings. The duke heard them with an indignation against Somerset, which never ceased to stimulate him to the most deadly animosity¹⁹.

Somerset
surrenders.

York was in Ireland during the proceedings against Suffolk, and the sedition of Cade. He had been sent there to subdue a rebellion which had begun, but with a force inadequate enough to

York in
Ireland.

¹⁸ On these events, see Hall's Chron. p. 216, and Monstrelet, V. 9, p. 123—36, who says, it was the strongest castle in all Normandy. p. 128.

¹⁹ Hall, p. 216. The instructions of Falstoff, in Wyrcestre's MSS. one 'of the king's great council,' were written while the duke

was besieged in Caen, and state, that he 'was in great jeopardy of his person, and in doubt of losing all that country;' and ordered relief 'in all goodly haste.' Whether this aid was insufficient, or the duke surrendered before it arrived, does not appear.

BOOK

III.

1450.

September.
York ad-
vances to
London;

to make him discontented with the ministry who had sent him. Yet his talents and judgment supplied the deficiency, and his conduct was so pleasing to the "wild and savage" Irish, that they contracted a steady attachment to his person and family²⁰.

During the summer of 1450, the whole popular mind continued to exhibit the indications of dissatisfaction and turbulence already noticed²¹. Somerset was in France, and the administration in England was headed by the cardinal archbishop of York, the chancellor, whose measures were still unpopular²².

In September, the court were alarmed by the news that the duke of York had quitted Ireland, and proceeded to his castle in Wales²³. That those who wished his presence and interference, went to meet him, and that he solicited them to do so, appears from the murder of Tresham, a legal man, who had been formerly speaker of the house of commons²⁴. His widow's petition for redress states, that the duke had written to him to meet him; and that on 21st September, a party of 160 men, armed with weapons, which are called jakkes, salettes, long swords, long debeofs, and bore speares, lay in wait for him under a hedge, in the highway, and as he came along, saying mattins to the Virgin, rushed upon him, smote him with a lancegay and other weapons, till he fell, and then plundered him of a collar of the king's livery, his chain of gold, his horse and money²⁵. These assailants were the people of lord Grey²⁶.

A force under lord Lyle, son of the famous Talbot, was sent to stop York's advance, but this counteraction was ineffectual; the duke

²⁰ Hall, p. 213.

²¹ See before, p. 174.

²² The writer in 3 Fenn, 179, calls him 'the cursed cardinal;' and on his death, in February 1453, exclaims, 'the cardinal is dead, and the king is relieved.' He was appointed chancellor on the dismissal from that office of the archbishop of Canterbury, of the Buckingham family, on 31 Jan. 1450, (Parl. Rolls, V. 6, p. 172.) when Lord Beauchamp

was made treasurer, and lord Cromwell chamberlain. W. Wyr. 473.

²³ W. Wyr. 473.

²⁴ He was speaker in 1439, 1441, 1447, 1449. Parl. Rolls, V. 5, p. 4, 36, 129, 172. After his death, sir William Oldhall was chosen, p. 210; and Thomas Thorp in 1453, p. 227.

²⁵ Parl. Rolls, 5, p. 211.

²⁶ W. Wyr. 473.

duke reached London with 4,000 men, at the end of September; and proceeding to the palace at Westminster, knelt before the king, complained of the state of the kingdom, and implored him to summon a parliament²⁷. He was afterwards charged with having come to this interview with a multitude of armed men, beating down the spears and walls of the presence chamber in insolent contempt of his sovereign, who is said to have answered his desires and demands, as if inspired with the divine spirit. The royal wisdom is stated to have covered him with confusion²⁸. But his retiring so abashed may have arisen from the queen's not disguising her displeasure, and advising those violent measures against him, which Buckingham prevented. This lord fought and fell on the king's side in the first battle that occurred between the factions. But he was at this juncture dissatisfied that his two brothers had been dismissed from their high stations of chancellor and treasurer²⁹; and therefore let York withdraw unmolested to his castle at Fotheringhay³⁰. Somerset was now chosen to be the favorite adviser of the crown. He was made constable of England and sent for out of Normandy. He arrived in England in the ensuing month, in such great popular hatred, from the belief that he had given up Normandy³¹, as to weaken the government he had been called to uphold.

but retires.

The petition or complaint which York presented about this time to the king, has been preserved to us. It mentions the great grudging and rumor which was universal, that justice was not duly ministered, especially against those who had been indicted for

His complaint against Somerset.

²⁷ W. Wyr. 473.

²⁸ This statement is in the preamble to the act of his attainder. Parl. Rolls, V. 5, p. 346.

²⁹ Letter, 1 Fenn, p. 27.

³⁰ W. Wyr. 473. This castle had been built by the first duke of York, the fifth son of Edward III.

³¹ Rymer, 11, p. 276. W. Wyr. 473. Fab. 454. The loss of France may have

dissatisfied the national pride of England; but, from the pecuniary accounts in W. Wyr. MSS. above cited, the occupation of it was a financial burthen. The list of England's receipts from its revenues, under the duke of Bedford, from Oct. 1427 to Oct. 1428, was 57,466*l.*; but the payments from these were 68,408*l.* So that the revenue, in this year, fell short of the expenditure, 10,942*l.* MSS. Antiq. Soc. N^o 41.

BOOK
I.

1450.

for treason, and against those who "were openly noised," of the crime. He recommended that it should be enforced against them, and offered to do his duty in executing it, and urged the king to issue orders for their arrest³².

The general feeling at this period has been thus sketched out to us by a chronicler of the age of Elizabeth. "Many of the nobility and more of the mean estate, wisely pondering the state and condition of the realm, perceiving more loss than increase, more ruin than advancement to ensue daily, and remembering that France was conquered, and Normandy gained by the French, in so short a space, thought that the fault of all these miserable chances happened either because the king was not true in heart, or that he or his councils were not able of wit, policy, and circumspection, to rule the kingdom³³." Hence they began to wish a change in the dynasty, and to recollect the nearer descent of the duke of York from their revered Edward III. They circulated the opinion that York's popular conduct towards the Irish nation, shewed that if he who "had brought that rude and savage nation to civil fashion and English urbanity, once ruled in England, he would depose evil counsellors, correct evil judges, and reform all unamended matters³⁴." But these were at present rather dangerous speculations, than actual conspiracy. They believed that it was possible to change the obnoxious system of government, without disturbing the throne; and parliament under these impressions, assembled at Westminster, in the beginning of November.

The duke came to London with a force sufficient for his safety; and his friends, the duke of Norfolk, the earl of Salisbury, and his son, who became the celebrated Warwick, the earl of Devonshire, and lord Cobham, a man of considerable talent and experience³⁵, also attended. Norfolk came with a great power³⁶, and prepared to take a leading part. The result of these consultations, was an immediate resolution to impeach Somerset, who was now become the

³² The petition is in Fenn 1, p. 67.

³³ Hall's Chron. 219.

³⁴ Hall's Chron. 219.

³⁵ W. Wyr. 474.

³⁶ Ib. 223.

the chief minister³⁷, but who was so disliked by the populace, that they broke into his house near the Blackfryars, and plundered his goods. On the same day he had nearly perished in the Thames, as he was escaping from the mob, when he was taken into the earl of Devonshire's barge³⁸.

The parliament met on the 6th of November, and the cardinal of York, urged them to provide for the safe custody of the sea; to furnish aid for Aquitaine, and to pacify and punish that part of the population, which was riotously disposed³⁹. After sitting six weeks, it was prorogued to the 20th January⁴⁰, and commissioners were sent to Norfolk, to tranquillize the people⁴¹. One of the commons, a lawyer, moved, as the king had no issue, that his heir apparent should be declared, and he named the duke of York; but he was sent to the tower for the unseasonable proposition⁴².

The violence of the contending parties continued to agitate the nation. The earl of Devon besieged lord Bonville in Taunton, who surrendered himself to the duke of York and his friends⁴³. York was met, beyond St. Albans, by a body from the western counties that would have killed him, if sir William Oldhall had not protected him, nearly at the sacrifice of his own life⁴⁴. The earl Salisbury, returning from his son's marriage, had a serious conflict with lord Egremont, near York, which is noticed as the commencement of all the future evils⁴⁵.

1451.

In the parliament of this year, the duke of York exhibited several articles of impeachment against Somerset⁴⁶: 1st, that
York impeaches Somerset
Normandy

³⁷ W. Wyr. 475. ³⁸ Ib. 474. Fab. 453.

³⁹ Parl. Rolls, 5, p. 210.

⁴⁰ Ib. p. 213. ⁴¹ 3 Fenn, 107.

⁴² W. Wyr. 475. ⁴³ Ib. 275.

⁴⁴ 3 Fenn, 157. In May, Stafford, archbishop of Canterbury, died, and was succeeded by the cardinal of York, to whose dignity Bothe, bishop of Chester, was raised. The abbot of Gloucester had his see, and a doctor of the Carmelites that of Hereford. W. Wyr. 476. Bothe and the abbot were two of the obnoxious statesmen of the day.

⁴⁵ W. Wyr. 476.

⁴⁶ I have seen those only in the Cotton MSS. Vesp. C. 14. They begin, 'these articles and pointes folowyng geve, shewe and munstre, I, Richard duc of York, youre true liegeman, and submit unto youre highnesse, summarily purposing and declaryng thaym agenst Edmond duc of Somerset, for the grete welfare and interesse of youre majestie roiall, and of this youre noble roialme, p. 40.

BOOK

I.

1451.

Normandy was lost by or through him: 2d, that he was the cause of the breaking of the truce, which gave the French king the pretext for renewing the war⁴⁷: 3d, that he would give no counsel nor aid to the captains of divers strong places and garrisons, who had applied to him for advice and succor⁴⁸: 4th, that he unnecessarily went into Rouen, when he might have been elsewhere, and gave up that town and several other places, to procure the enlargement of his children and property⁴⁹: 5th, that he was planning to give up Calais to the duke of Burgundy; and 6th, that he had received large sums at the yielding up of Anjou and Maine for the English there, which he had appropriated to his own use.

It was answered by Somerset's friends, that if this were an offence, it was but trespass, not treason. The duke of Norfolk, in a long speech, supported the accusation with great severity⁵⁰. But the power and influence of the queen made his efforts unavailing. The commons petitioned to have the memory of Suffolk branded as a traitor, and his blood corrupted: and that Somerset, Suffolk's widow, the two prelates Bothe and the abbot of Gloucester, lord Hastings, and lord Stanley, should be removed from the royal court. The king by his chancellor answered, that he meant to be accompanied by virtuous persons only; that he did not

⁴⁷ The duke particularly instances, the taking of Fougères, MS. ib. Monstrelet gives an account of this incident, V. 8, p. 427. York also charges Somerset, with having, contrary to the truce, re-fortified several places that had been dismantled. MS. ib.

⁴⁸ 'Insomuch that he made no provision for the castle of Rouen, neither of men, stuffe, nor vitaille.' MS. ib.

⁴⁹ 'And, moreover, other good towns and castles, as Caudebek, Tancarville, Monsterbillers, and Argues, key of all Canly not besieged, nor in perill of loss at that time,' MS. ib. This document shows Monstrelet's exactness in his account of the surrender of those places. V. 9, p. 87. York says, that this 'might not, nor hath not be done, nor seen by law, reson, or cronikel, or by course of

war, by any lestenant, although he had been prisoner.' He gives the dukes of Orleans, Bourbon, and D'Alençon, as instances, that such surrenders as these were never made. Those princes never offered such terms for their liberation, 'though they had many strong places of their own.' MS. ib. Yet general Melas, in our days, acted somewhat like this, when to procure safety for himself, and his army, he gave up the most important fortresses of Italy, after the battle of Marengo.

⁵⁰ See Norfolk's speech in 3 Fenn, 111—16. He quotes the book called 'L'Arbre de Bataille,' as the authority for punishing Somerset for the loss of towns and castles, without siege, and to prove, that 'a knight who flies for dread of battle should be headed.' p. 113.

not know why those objected to should be displaced; but except such as were peers, and the few who actually waited upon him, he was willing that the rest should absent themselves for a year⁵¹.

But legal prosecutions became inadequate to suit the feelings of the enraged leaders, and their partisans. York in the middle of winter circulated proclamations, complaining of the conduct of the king's counsellors; and assembling a large force in the marches of Wales, he declared that he moved only for the public welfare⁵². The king, astonished at the sudden commotion, raised a powerful force, and in the middle of February, with Somerset and other lords, advanced to meet the duke⁵³. To avoid an immediate collision for which he thought his present strength unequal, York avoided the king's line of march, and passing on towards the metropolis, crossed the Thames at Kingston, and proceeded into Kent, where he was sure of receiving considerable reinforcements. On a heath near Dartford he encamped, and fortified himself with trenches and artillery. The king marched after him and pitched his tent at Blackheath. But his friends averse from risking an immediate contest, caused two bishops to be sent to York to inquire the cause of his rebellious semblance. The duke asserted, that he had no intention to injure the king, but aimed to remove from him the evil counsellors whom he called "the blood suckers of the nobility, the plunderers of the clergy, and the oppressors of the commonalty," and again arraigned Somerset. The government doubting its ability to subdue York by force, the king affected to put the accused under restraint; and it is an indication that York, at this period, intended no larger object, that on this acquiescence he dissolved his army on the 1st of March, and came unguarded to the royal tent⁵⁴.

York assembles an army;
encamps at Dartford;

As

⁵¹ Parl. Rolls, 5, p. 216. As to Suffolk, 'Le Roy s'advisera.' p. 226.

⁵² His subsequent attainder charges him with writing letters to many cities, boroughs, and towns, and to many private persons, to

make a common insurrection. Parl. Rolls, 5, p. 346.

⁵³ Fab. 434.

⁵⁴ See Whethamstede's account, a contemporary, p. 348, 9; Fabian, 455; and Hall's Chron. 226.

BOOK

I.

1451.

taken to
London as
a prisoner.

August 1451.
Loss of Aquitaine.

As he entered it he beheld Somerset at liberty near the king, and felt that he was betrayed. He charged the obnoxious favorite with treason, bribery, and oppression; who retorted the epithet of traitor, and accused him of meditating to seize the crown. York was now in his power, and was compelled to ride before the king to London, as a prisoner, where Henry held a council to deliberate on their mutual arraignment. The discussions were interrupted by rumors, that the son of the imprisoned duke was marching with a large army to release his father. The queen and her friends became alarmed, and ambassadors at the same juncture arriving from Bourdeaux, to promise a revolt of Gascony, in favor of the English, if a protecting force was sent thither, the council determined not to risque a civil war⁵⁵, but to let York go. After swearing an oath of allegiance and future fidelity, in public, at St. Paul's, he went immediately to his castle at Wigmore, in Wales; and Somerset rose higher in favor with both king and queen. The veteran lord Talbot was sent to Gascony. He ravaged the country, but the king of France concentrating a powerful force, this high-famed warrior fought an unsuccessful battle. The increased use of artillery made the personal prowess of the ancient chivalry less formidable; and Talbot, who feared no martial competitor, and had never been subdued by any single opponent⁵⁶, was struck by a fatal shot, which no valor or skill of arms could avert. The total loss of Aquitaine followed, after England had possessed it nearly three centuries⁵⁷.

The

⁵⁵ Fab. 455; Hall, 227; 2 Lel. 495. The rolls of parliament give his oath at length. He swears to be Henry's humble subject and liegeman; to bear him faith as his sovereign lord to his lives end; not to attempt any thing against him, nor gather any assemblies of people without the king's command, or in his own defence. This oath he subscribed and sealed. Parl. Rolls, 5, p. 346.

⁵⁶ He was so dreaded by the French that, 'women to feare their young children would crye, 'The Talbot commeth! The Talbot

commeth!'. Hall, p. 230. For the detail of the French conquest of Guienne, See Monst. 9, p. 159—190.

⁵⁷ Of this province, Hall says, 'the keeping of this dutchy was neither costly nor troublesome to England, but both pleasant and profitable. Young gentlemen learned there, the experience of war, and expert men were promoted to many rich offices, and great livings in it.' It contained three archbishops, 34 bishops, 15 earldoms, 102 baronies, and above 1,000 captainships and bailiwicks.

Hall,

The chancellor and treasurer having declared that the debts of the king amounted to 372,000*l.* and that his expenditure was 19,000*l.* a-year more than his income, and that the poor commons were full nigh destroyed by former taxations, the parliament passed an act to resume all the royal lands, and possessions, and property, which had been granted to any one by the king, except those which are there enumerated⁵⁸.

The duke of Somerset continued to be triumphant. His ascendancy in the government was complete. Both king and queen placed in him their unbounded confidence. He was made captain of Calais, in the room of the duke of Buckingham, and all honors were bestowed through him. He governed all the kingdom. A council was held in September, in Coventry, to effect a conciliation between him and York, and their differences were discussed before the king, and submitted to the judgment of other lords⁵⁹. A temporary arrangement appears to have been the result; and while the factions that divided the nation, paused from their animosities, the queen endeavored to increase her popularity, by visiting some of the country gentry⁶⁰.

Somerset's
power.

The parliament met on the 6th of March, in the abbey at Reading, and was called upon from the throne, to provide for the sound and solid government of the kingdom⁶¹. Grants of subsidies were obtained, not for three years as had been customary, but with the unusual addition for the life of the king: 20,000 archers were also required and voted for the defence of the kingdom, to which every county and city were to contribute⁶². Neither of these measures were adapted to increase the popularity of government. The parliament, after sitting twenty two days only,

1453.

Hall, 230. So that the loss of Normandy and Guienne was the loss of so much patronage to government, and of the means of providing for the younger branches of the English gentry. Hence, much of the discontent which resulted from their abandonment.

⁵⁸ Parl. Rolls, 217.

⁵⁹ W. Wyr. 476.

⁶⁰ Thus in April 1452, she went into Norfolk, and stayed two days at Norwich, and sent for its ladies to come to her, to whom she gave a flattering reception, 1 Fenn. 69.

⁶¹ Parl. Rolls, 5, p. 227—229.

⁶² Parl. Rolls, p. 231.

BOOK

I.

1453.

only, was prorogued to the end of April, to meet at Westminster. There 7,000 of the archers were taken off⁶³, and the 13,000 were to be raised and kept together as an entire body; but afterwards the levy of the whole was suspended for two years⁶⁴. This alteration and virtual repeal of a favorite measure, announce that the government found that it had ventured upon a dangerous policy, from which it was expedient to retreat.

Somerset petitioned for the payment of 21,648*l.* 10*s.* due to him for the wages of himself and soldiers at Calais, after the duke of Buckingham's claim should be settled. This was enacted⁶⁵. And on the 2d of July, the king in person thanked the commons for their liberal subsidy⁶⁶. By his command cardinal Kemp stated to the parliament, that his sovereign was disposed to exert himself to put an end to the oppression, riots, and misdeeds, that had so long prevailed in the kingdom, and desired the members so to inform the people. He prorogued them to the 12th of November, at Reading, when on the allegation of a great mortality in the town, their meeting was again deferred until the ensuing February⁶⁷.

But before this month arrived, a revolution in the administration took place from a dangerous illness, which in October 1453, abstracted the king from all public business, and all domestic society⁶⁸.

⁶³ Parl. Rolls, p. 231. The proportions for each county are stated, p. 232.

⁶⁴ Ib. 233, 238.

⁶⁵ Ib. 234.

⁶⁶ His words were, 'we cordially thank you: and you must not doubt, that we will be a gracious and kind lord to you.' P. Rolls, 236. These were certainly the expressions of Henry's heart. This kindness of feeling was peculiarly his own.

⁶⁷ P. Rolls, 238.

Character of
Henry VI.

⁶⁸ We have a full description of Henry VI. from Blakman, a Carthusian monk, who had much intercourse with him. The following particulars are taken from his account:

'He was a man of pure simplicity of mind,

without the least deceit or falshood; he did nothing by trick; he always spoke truth, and performed every promise he made; he never knowingly would do an injury to any one; he made rectitude and justice the rule of his public conduct.

'He was very devout and fond of religion; he disliked the sports and business of the world; he thought them frivolous; he loved to read the scriptures and the old chronicles; he was assiduous in prayer; he was fond of exhorting his friends and visitors, and especially young men, to avoid vice, to pursue virtue, and to attach themselves to piety.

'His demeanor at church was peculiarly reverential; he would not sit indifferently down, or walk about during the service, as was then the

the fashion; but with an uncovered head and bent knees, and his eyes continually on his book, or with his hands raised to heaven; he performed earnestly his devotions; and meditated deeply within, as the scriptures were being read.

‘He would not allow swords or spears to be brought into the church, nor contracts to be made, nor conversations to be carried on there. He was in the habit of sending epistles of advice to many of his clergy, full of moral exhortations to the amazement of many. A bishop, who had been his confessor for ten years, declared, that he heard nothing wrong confessed; only, venial faults.

‘He delighted in female modesty; and when he saw some young gentlewomen dancing in dresses which left the maternal parts of their necks uncovered, he turned away to his room, exclaiming, ‘Fie! fie! for shame! forsothe ye be to blame.’

‘He was very liberal to the poor; he never oppressed those subject to him with immoderate exactions, as other great men did; but he was fond of living among them, as a father among his children.

‘His kindness of feeling was so great, that hearing one day that a person of his household had been robbed, he sent him twenty nobles, with an admonition to take more care of his property, but with a request, not to prosecute the thief. When the scholars from his college at Eton, came to Windsor castle, on a visit to some of his servants, he was fond of going to them, and giving them moral exhortations to be steadily virtuous. He usually added a present of money with this short address: ‘Be good lads, meek and docile, and attend to your religion.’ But

he did not like to see them at court, from his dread of their being contaminated by the dissolute examples of his courtiers.

‘His dress was plain; he would not wear the up-pointed, horn-like toes, then in fashion. He had a great aversion to the vehement knockings on his doors, when a great man came. He frequently rebuked his lords for their violent oaths. His only affirmations were, ‘forsooth, and forsooth.’ Coming one day from St. Albans to Cripplegate, he saw a quarter of a man impaled on a stake there, for treason; he was greatly shocked, and exclaimed, ‘Take it away; I will not have any christian so cruelly treated on my account.’ Having heard, that four gentlemen of noble birth were about to suffer for treason to him, he sent his pardon, with an earnest expedition to the place of their punishment.

‘His Sundays were always consecrated to devotion, and to correspondent reading. His other days were passed in some public business, or in reading the scriptures, or history, to which he was greatly attached. In all the church preferments that he gave, he was very careful to select proper persons. He was very affectionate to his two maternal brothers; Edmund, the father of Henry VII., and Jasper, earl of Pembroke; and had them carefully brought up, under the most honest and virtuous ecclesiastics.’ *Blakman Collect.* printed by Hearne, at the end of his *Otterb.* p. 288—302.

These facts shew Henry to have been, a very estimable man; and if he had married a queen of less ambition, and of a more congenial temper, than the haughty and restless Margaret, his reign might have been much happier, both to himself and his people.

HISTORY

OF
ENGLAND.

CHAP. XVIII.

HENRY'S DANGEROUS ILLNESS. YORK APPOINTED PRO-
TECTOR; HIS DISMISSAL. SOMERSET'S ASCENDANCY.
YORK COLLECTS AN ARMY. FIRST BATTLE OF ST. ALBANS.
YORK AGAIN APPOINTED PROTECTOR; AGAIN DISPLACED.
RECONCILIATION OF THE CONTENDING PARTIES.

BOOK
I.

October,
1453.
The king's
illness.

THE affliction fell upon the king at Clarendon, and by disordering his mind, and depriving the administration of his apparent sanction, paralyzed all the functions of government¹. He lost both sense and memory, and the use of his limbs. He could neither walk, stand, rise up, nor move²: and during this calamitous state, his queen, on the 13th of October, was brought to bed of a son, who became the unfortunate prince Edward—unfortunate in his premature death; and not less so on his birth, from the suspicions of his legitimacy which attended it³, and from its adding to the distractions of the country, by putting aside the expected succession of the duke of York.

The king's almost suspended animation continuing unabated, overturned the government of Somerset and the queen: and the general feelings of the country brought forward York, and his friends

¹ W. Wyr. 477.² Whetham. p. 349.³ Fab. 456.

friends to assume the administration. In January 1454, Somerset was arrested in the queen's public chamber, and sent to the tower. In his letter to the king of Scotland, he states this to have been done for his safety⁴.

CHAP.
XVIII.

The parliament was opened in February, at Reading, by the earl of Worcester, as treasurer of England, but was adjourned to meet at Westminster, in three days. The duke of York there addressed it as the royal commissioner⁵.

Having been informed by the chancellor, that 11,000*l.* were wanted for the defence of Calais, the commons represented the liberal subsidies they had granted at Reading, and added, that "they cannot, may not, and dare not, make any more grants, considering the great poverty and penury of the people." They reminded the government that they had been promised at Reading, that "a sad and wise council of discreet lords and others should be established, to whom all might have recourse for justice and equity; but that it had not yet been done, and they recommended a special attention to the internal peace of the nation⁶."

The death of the cardinal archbishop of Canterbury, on the 23d of March⁷, occasioned a deputation from parliament to the king. Twelve spiritual and temporal peers were sent to Windsor, to state to him, if he could hear and understand them, the points on which they were deputed to speak. These were to express an earnest desire for his relief from his great sickness, and to assure him that they would attend daily to such things as they should deem most promotive

Card. Kemp's
death.

⁴ It is in the Harl. MSS. 543. He says, "As for my being in the Tower, it was done by th' advice of the lords of the king's council, which, as I understood, was mooste for the surety of my person." p. 163.

⁵ The commons petitioned for the release of Thorp, who was in prison, on a verdict of 1,000*l.* given against him for seizing the duke of York's goods; but the lords would not interfere. Parl. Rolls, V. 5, p. 239. Thorp was one of the leading instruments of

the queen and Somerset, and was afterwards mentioned in that character.

⁶ Ib. p. 240.

⁷ Although not liked by those who were dissatisfied with the measures of government, this prelate was estimated so highly by Henry, that when his death was mentioned to him, on his recovery, Henry remarked, "One of the wisest lords in this land was dead."

1 Fenn, p. 80.

BOOK

I.

1454.

Lords visit
the king.

promotive of the welfare of himself and of his kingdom. They were to proceed to no other subjects, unless the royal attention was adequate to hear them. But if his capacity permitted, they were to inquire as to his pleasure in supplying the vacancy of the see of Canterbury, to inform him that they had deposited the archiepiscopal seals in a coffer in his treasury, and to request him to name the discreet and sad council, for which the commons had solicited. The noble deputies were ordered to express these matters to no one but to the king⁸.

The lords went to Windsor in execution of their mission. They waited till he had dined, and then the bishop of Chester respectfully addressed him on the two first articles. The sovereign returned no answer. The prelate explained the rest. Not a word: not a sign either of comprehension, or of reply was given from the royal body. Their laments and their exhortations produced no effect. Silence and insensibility only appeared. The lords then withdrew to dinner, and afterwards again visited the king. They moved him. They shook him, but could excite neither voice nor attention. They had him led by two men out of that room into another, and again by pulling him about strove to rouse him from his senseless lethargy. But every effort was in vain. The royal person could eat, be moved, and breathe, but neither hear, understand, nor speak. They returned to parliament, and made this distressing report⁹, and the duke of York was named protector and defender of the realm¹⁰.

The duke earnestly desired that they would express that it was upon their wish, and not by any presumption of his own, that he took upon himself this dignity¹¹. The parliament for the legal safety of

⁸ Parl. Rolls, 240, 1.

⁹ The Parl. Rolls describe this interesting scene, p. 241. There is an authority from the council, dated 6 April, to the king's physician, to administer, as medicines, to him, a formidable catalogue of 'electuaries, potions, waters, syrups, confections, laxatives, clysters, gargles, headpurses, bathings, fomentations,

embrocations, shaving of head, unctions, plasters, cerates, blisters, scarifications, &c.

¹¹ Rym. p. 347.

¹⁰ Parl. Rolls, 242. Rym. 11, p. 346.

¹¹ The duke's expressions seem to have been earnestly chosen, to obviate any suspicion of his own ambition. 'I desire and pray you, that it be enacted, that of yourself and of your free

of all, passed an act to this effect, and made it like that which had been framed in the king's minority. The new power was to cease when the prince Edward attained the years of discretion: and it was declared, that when he reached that period, he should become the protector and defender, instead¹². An income of 2,000*l.* a-year was attached to the dignity. Five peers, with a large fleet of ships of war, were appointed to guard the sea¹³. And the needed subsidies were granted. Exertions were also made to regulate and supply the proper expences of the royal household¹⁴. Penalties were enacted against those peers who declined to attend parliament¹⁵. The young prince was created prince of Wales and earl of Chester; and the king's brothers, by the second marriage of the queen dowager with Owen Tudor, who had been made earls of Richmond and Pembroke, were noticed in the parliamentary records¹⁶. Somerset arraigned in parliament¹⁷ by the duke of York, was kept still in prison¹⁸. But the queen's friends ventured to charge the earl of Devon with high treason, though but to produce his acquittal¹⁹. This accusation being considered by the duke of York to blemish his own allegiance, roused him to declare that it touched

free and mere disposition, ye desire, name, and call me to the said name and charge: and that, of any presumption of myself, I take them not upon me; but only of the due and humble obeissance that I owe to do unto the king, our most dread and sovereign lord, and to you, the peerage of this land; in whom, by th' occasion of th' infirmity of our said sovereign lord, resteth th' exercise of his authority: whose noble commandment I am as ready to perform and obey as any his liege man alive. And that at such time as it shall please our blessed Creator to restore his most noble person to healthful disposition, it shall like you so to declare and notify to his good grace.' P. Rolls, 5, p. 242. This language implies, that a respectful loyalty existed, either in himself, or in the parliament he addressed, towards his afflicted king.

¹² Parl. Rolls, 243.

¹³ They were, Richard earl of Salisbury, John earl of Shrewsbury, John earl of Worcester, James earl of Wiltshire, and John lord Stourton. Ib. 244.

¹⁴ Ib. 245, 6. The subsidies were to be levied before 20 June 1454, in the proportions mentioned in the Rolls, p. 245.

¹⁵ Every archbishop and duke were to pay 100*l.*; every bishop and earl, 100 marks; every abbot and baron, 40*l.* P. Rolls, 248.

¹⁶ Ib. 249, 250.

¹⁷ Whethamsted, p. 349.

¹⁸ This fact is proved, by himself and Lord Cobham being excepted from the fine for not attending parliament, 'being in prison.' P. Rolls, 248.

¹⁹ Parl. Rolls, 249; probably for his besieging lord Bonville in Taunton. See before, p. 247.

BOOK

I.

1454.

touched his own honor; that he ever had been a true and humble liegeman to the king, and never thought nor meant the contrary; and that as a knight, he would put his body against any person whom it fitted him to answer, that should lay any charge of the said matter upon him. The lords assured him of their conviction of his faithful loyalty²⁰.

The duke of York was appointed to the high military command of governor of Calais, for seven years: but lessoned by the pecuniary losses of his predecessors in the office, he desired the payment, before hand, of "a notable sum of money," for the garrison. He also requested that what was due to him for his former services in Normandy and Ireland, for which his great jewels and plate were still in pledge²¹, should be discharged. In this sessions lord Cromwell applied for surety of the peace against the duke of Exeter²².

The king's malady continued all the summer and autumn, with a total suspension of his intellectual faculties. At Christmas it suddenly left him, and he sent his almoner with an offering to St. Edward's shrine, at Canterbury. The queen then came to present to him her princely babe. The king asked his name. She told him, 'Edward.' He raised his hands and thanked God for it. He declared he had not known the child till that time, nor any thing which had been said to him, nor where he had been during his illness. This state of lethargic idiotcy had lasted nearly a year. He declared himself to be in charity with all the world, and wished that all the peers were so too²³. No sovereign seems to have had purer

²⁰ 'We knew never, nor at any time could conceive, but that ye be and have been true and faithful liegeman to the king, our sovereign lord, as it belongeth your estate to be; and so we know, take, accept, repute, hold, and declare you.' P. Rolls, 250.

²¹ P. Rolls, 254, 5. His appointment is dated 28 July. Rym. 11, p. 351. There is an order, dated 4 December, to Somerset, to deliver Calais to him. Ib. p. 359.

²² P. Rolls, 264. The earl Salisbury was appointed warden of the west marches, capital steward of the duchy of Lancaster, with the constabularies and master forestship of Pomfret and Galpes; so that 'he had in rule all the king's castles and honourable offices north of the Trent.' Ib. p. 347.

²³ 1 Fenn, 80—2. The Parliament, which had been held at Westminster, on 9 July 1454, was, on 31st, adjourned to 12 December, and

purser feelings, or more upright intentions than the meek and gentle Henry.

CHAP.
XVIII.

As the king recovered, the queen and her party, aided by the ecclesiastical influence, resumed their power; and Somerset, in February 1455, after an imprisonment of fourteen months, was set at liberty²⁴. The protectorate of York was made to cease, with the malady which had occasioned it, and he was removed from the government of Calais²⁵. To this envied post Somerset was appointed, and regained all his power in the administration of the country.

Feb. 1455.
Somerset's
re-ascen-
dancy.

The competition between him and York raged but more fiercely from these mutations. The lords prevailed on these fiery spirits to submit their differences to arbitration²⁶. Pecuniary claims might be so arranged. But what award can satisfy resentment, jealousy, or contending ambition? It was a mortal blow to the peace of York to see Somerset again the principal actor about the sovereign, and the ruling master of the country²⁷. He withdrew to the north in unappeased disgust and animosity. He saw the popular feeling to be accordant with his own, and he felt his own safety to be compromised. He entered into conferences with two great nobles, his relations, the earls of Warwick and Salisbury. He stated to them his conviction, that Somerset aimed to kill both him and them; and that he had lately been informed, that the obnoxious minister, had persuaded the king to go secretly to Leicester, and, collecting his powerful friends in that part, to convene a parliament, for the destruction of York and his adherents, if they came; and to deprive them of their dignity and property for disobedient

May 1455.
Beginning of
the civil war.

and on 13 December was prorogued to 14 Jan. 1455. P. Rolls, 321.

the protectorate on 25 February. Parl. Rolls, 321.

²⁴ Rym. Fed. 11, p. 361. He gave for bail, on 5 February, the duke of Buckingham and three others, who were discharged on 31 March. p. 362.

²⁶ Their submission was made on 4 March, to abide the decision of the archbishop of Canterbury, bishop of Ely, duke of Buckingham, earls of Wilts and Worcester, and three knights. 11 Rym. 362, 3.

²⁵ 11 Rym. 363. York was removed from

²⁷ Whet. 350.

BOOK

III.

1455.

disobedient contumacy, if they should stay away. He recommended the most violent resolutions against Somerset—either his death or exile²⁸.

A deadly crisis had now arrived between these two noblemen. Irascible ambition, and tenacious pride had brought their quarrel to a mortal issue. Somerset could not pardon his fourteen months imprisonment, nor York the disgrace of being superseded by such a rival. Neither was safe while either was alive; and the mental factions in the nation, inflamed this mutual animosity. But up to this period, there is no evidence that any plan or intention had been formed of dethroning Henry. The regency of York, and its consequence, a new and more popular administration, appear to have been the extent of the views of the opposing classes at that time, and of his own ambition.

May, 1455.
Beginning of
the civil war.

As York had done before, he now marched in the spring towards London, with his military retainers, to enforce the convocation of a parliament, and to expel Somerset. The earls of Salisbury and Warwick, and lord Cobham, joined him with their forces. The king's government, aware that York had too many friends in the metropolis, to be resisted there, resolved to meet him in the north, and put the issue at once to a martial field. Accordingly, the dukes of Somerset and Buckingham, with earl Strafford, the son of the latter, and the earl of Northumberland and Wiltshire, and lord Clifford, left Westminster on 20th May. On the same day, York had reached Royston, and from thence, sent letters to the chancellor, asserting his intentions to keep his loyalty unspotted and unbruised; to lay aside his own particular quarrels, and to do nothing contrary to the honor and welfare of the king and people; he solicited the prelate, to issue the censures of the church against every one that should purpose any injury to the sovereign: he declared, that his enemies had mis-represented his coming with a military power; and intimating a suspicion, that violence was intended against himself, he protested, that he

marched

²⁸ Whetham. 351, 2.

marched in arms, only to protect himself from the danger that threatened him²⁹. At Ware, on the next day, he wrote a letter, professing much loyalty to the king, and referring to his address to the chancellor; and on the 22d May, he reached St. Albans, where he found the regal forces already stationed. These letters were concealed from Henry, whom York, in the morning, made some unavailing attempts to see³⁰.

On 21st May, the king had passed the night at Watford, and on the next day, reached St. Albans, with the dukes of Somerset and Buckingham, the earls of Pembroke, Northumberland, Devonshire, Stafford, Dorset, and Wiltshire, and the lords Clifford, Sudeley, and Roos. These noblemen constituted that portion of the nobility, who had combined against the York party. They were attended by their knights, squires, gentlemen and yeomanry, but their whole force was not much above 2,000 men³¹. This shews, that the first struggle was between the nobility themselves; the public, as yet, stood aloof from such a deadly struggle.

Both parties
at St. Albans.

The king's banner was pitched in the town, in St. Peter's-street, and his troops were immediately stationed to guard all the barriers under the command of lord Clifford. York, and his friends, were in the Seyfield, near the town, and remained from seven o'clock in the morning, for three hours, inactive, but in anxious deliberation.

It was a moment of the greatest solicitude; all the noble competitors, on each side, were there. The promptitude of the royal movement,

²⁹ Parl. Rolls, 280, 1.

³⁰ Ib. 281, 2. 'And the said 22d day, our said cousins, hearing of our being in the said town of St. Albans, came thither, desiring, in full lowly wise, to have had knowledge of our intent and pleasure of their demeaning, touching the matter in their said letters, and to come to our presence. Whereunto, about 12 of the clock of that same day, by the advice of the said Edmund, (d. Somerset) Th. Thorp, and W. Joseph, it was, as we conceive, without our knowledge, answered unto them, that then

we had not seen the same letters.' Such is the statement put, in the king's name, on the Rolls of Parliament, p. 282.

³¹ Stowe has left us a MS. account of this battle, taken from some work, which he does not describe; but that it was written by a contemporary, and about the time, appears from its calling Henry, several times, 'our sovereign lord.' Henry ceased to be so in 1460, and the battle was in 1455. It is in the Harleian MSS. N° 545, and must have been composed between 1455 and 1460.

BOOK

I.

1455.

movement, announced the firm decision of the court, to take the dread arbitrament of battle; and as York and his friends had passed into the full depth of legal treason, they had no alternative but victory or death.

The duke of Buckingham coming to inquire if their intentions were pacific³², their council ended, in sending a message to the king, which, after a soothing preamble, added this requisition: "Please it your majesty royal, to deliver up such as we will accuse, and they to have like as they deserved; and this done, you to be honorably worshipped, as most rightful king." Foreseeing that this request might be met with temporary promises given, as they intimate had been done before, only to be broken, they concluded with, "we will not now slack for no such promise nor oath, until we have them which have deserved death; or else we, therefore, to die³³."

The confederated nobles, must have been surprised to have received from Henry, this high-toned and peremptory answer:—"I, kyng Henry, charge and command, that no manner person of what degree, estat or condition that ever he be, abide not; but that they avoid the field; and nowght to be so hardy to make resistance against me in my own realme: for I shall knowe what traitor dare be so bold to array any people in my own land, thro' which I am in great disease and heaviness. By that faith, I owe unto St. Edward and unto the crown of England, I shall destroy then every mother's son; and eke, they to be hanged, drawn, and quartered, that may be taken afterwards of them; to make an example for all such traitors, to beware for to make any rising of people within mine own land, and thus traiterously to abide their king and governor. And for a conclusion, rather than they shall have any lord that here is with me at this time, I shall this day, for their sake in this quarrel, myself live and die³⁴."

These

³² Wheth. 353.

³³ Harl. MSS. 545.

³⁴ We owe this document to the same MS.

The Parliamentary Record dates the battle, 22 May. p. 282.

These menaces left no hope but to the successful sword. York's force was 3,000 men: he addressed his army with energy, and at noon assaulted the barriers of the town in three places. The king was then sheltered in the house of the hundredor of the town, but hearing of the duke's attack, he is stated to have ordered his men to slay all that should be taken of the Yorkist army³⁵. Lord Clifford's defence was so steady, that all the assaults failed. Perceiving this result, Warwick moved to the garden-side of the town, and his men penetrating into it there, blew up their trumpets and shouted "a Warwick! a Warwick!" with an exulting noise, that roused their friends to new efforts, and disheartened their opponents. Such sudden clamors of triumph exaggerate the new forces and their successes; and in a battle, the impression of a moment often gives victory or defeat. The barriers were now burst through, and it became a deadly conflict, hand to hand in the streets³⁶. The great chieftains on the king's side, feeling it to be their personal battle, put themselves forward with indignant rivalry and defying bravery. The event from their resolute exertions, was for some time doubtful. The place became strewn with dead³⁷. But the dispositions as well as the desperate energies of the duke of York, prevailed. He was assiduous, from the reserves he set apart, to reinforce every point that was pressed, and to send fresh men to replace the wounded and the weary. His arrows disabled the royal leaders³⁸; and Somerset, Northumberland, and Clifford falling, their troops gave way, and fled over the hedges and gardens, throwing off their armor in the ditches and woods, to

22 May,
1455.
First battle of
St. Albans.

³⁵ So this contemporary account mentions; but these were probably not orders issuing from Henry, but given in his name. He was too mild to forbid quarter.

³⁶ Harl. MSS. No. 545.

³⁷ The abbot describes what he saw in his own town; one lying with his brains dashed out; another without his arm; some with the arrow in the throat, and others with the chest

pierced. He heard the shield striking shield and the sword clashing on sword. Whet. p. 353.

³⁸ Henry was struck in the neck, and the duke of Buckingham and lord Sudeley were hurt in their faces with arrows. The earl of Stafford in his right hand, and the earl of Dorset, was so sorely wounded, as to be carried home in a cart. Harl. MSS. 545.

BOOK

I.

1455.

to facilitate their escape³⁹. Sir Philip Wentworth cast down the king's standard to provide for his own safety: for which unknighly deed, even his opponents threatened to hang him⁴⁰: and Henry finding himself left alone and bleeding⁴¹, and the shafts still flying about him, withdrew to the house of a tanner. There York came respectfully to him, and after permitting his victorious troops to have that plunder in St. Albans, for which the ruder men from the north were always eager⁴², he conducted him, with reverence, the next day to London. The bodies of Somerset, the earl of Northumberland, and lord Clifford, the persons most obnoxious to the conqueror, were found among the slain, and buried. Buckingham much wounded, and Wiltshire escaped. The slain were few, but the issue of the battle was of deciding importance, from the deaths of the courtly nobles⁴³.

The immediate result of the victory, was the appointment of York to be the constable of England; Warwick to be captain of Calais; and viscount Bouchier, treasurer of England⁴⁴. The duke of Buckingham soon after joined the triumphant party, and the earl of Wiltshire solicited a similar reconciliation⁴⁵. A false rumor that three of the king's household had confederated to assassinate the duke of York, occasioned the citizens of London to arm themselves in a tumultuary insurrection⁴⁶.

The

³⁹ Harl. MSS. 545.

⁴⁰ 1 Fenn. 107.

⁴¹ The subsequent impeachment of York mentions his wound: 'your roiall persone was sore hurte, and in grete perell of youre lif.' Parl. Rolls, 5, p. 347.

⁴² Whet. describes those as more fierce, and ready for battle and bloodshed, and more greedy of plunder. p. 357.

⁴³ The Harl. MSS. distinctly names, besides Somerset, Northumberland, and Clifford, 14 squires, 1 gentleman and 4 yeomen, who fell; besides 25 more whose names were not known, and makes 48 persons, the whole number buried on the king's part. Yet the romancing Hall states 8,000 men to have

fallen on the king's side, which is almost double the amount of all the troops, of both parties in the battle. The abbot, who was on the spot, gives the force of York as only 3,000, and the Harl. MSS. states the king's as 2,000 and more. The original letter, in Fenn. 1, p. 100, mentions only six score persons to have fallen of the king's men. It was the death of the leaders, not the number of the killed, that made the victory so complete.

⁴⁴ 1 Fenn. 102. Parl. Rolls, 5, p. 341. Warwick was also made great captain of the sea, with 1,000*l.* a year. Ib. 347.

⁴⁵ 1 Fenn. 105.

⁴⁶ 1 Fenn. 107.

The march of the king's army to St. Albans, was ascribed to the advice of lord Cromwell, who, though of the queen's party, had contributed to the downfall of Suffolk⁴⁷. The partisans of each faction, were still so mistrustful of the other, that the men of York, Warwick, and Salisbury, went about in harness, with weapons unusual in a city, and sent barges full of arms to their lords at Westminster. Proclamations were issued to forbid this military demeanor⁴⁸.

In June the king again became diseased⁴⁹. In July the parliament met. The fallen Somerset was charged with having moved the king to mistrust the duke of York, and with having collected an army to destroy him, and with suppressing the letters that declared his pacific intentions. No protectorate was re-established, but the king's pardon was given in an express statute to York, Warwick, Salisbury, and all their adherents, for having taken arms⁵⁰. And it is a strong indication, that York, at this time, had formed no plot to attempt the crown, that he, though the victor in the late battle, took, on the 24th of July, a solemn oath of allegiance to Henry, with the other lords⁵¹. After which, the parliament was prorogued to the 12th of November⁵².

In

⁴⁷ 1 Fenn. 110. But the blame of the battle was imputed to Somerset, Thorpe, now a baron of the exchequer, and another person, Whet. 370; especially by concealing York's letters. Parl. Rolls, 282. These were deprived of all their offices and emoluments, ib. p. 342; and imprisoned for twelve years, ib. 333.

⁴⁸ 1 Fenn. 112.

⁴⁹ An order, dated 5th June 1455, commanding the dean of Salisbury's attendance on the king, as a physician, states his majesty to be then occupied, and laboured with sickness and infirmities. Rym. Fed. 11, 366. 1 Fenn. 119.

⁵⁰ Parl. Rolls, 5, p. 282. By the names annexed, the house of lords appears on this occasion, to have consisted of 2 archbishops, 2 dukes, 11 bishops, 6 earls, 2 viscounts, 18 abbots, 2 priors, and 17 barons, ib.

⁵¹ The duke of York began the oath by laying his hand on his breast, and taking the king by the hand. Its substance was, 'I shall truly and faithfully keep the liegaunce that I owe unto you, my most sovereign lord; and to do all that may be to the welfare, honor, and safeguard of your most noble person and royal estate, pre-eminence and prerogative. And I shall, at no time, will or consent to that which might in anywise be to the prejudice of your person, dignity, corone or estate; and I shall, with all my power, resist and withstand all them that would presume to attempt the contrary.' P. Rolls, 282. The duke of Buckingham and the lords, kneeling, requested the king to shew no more grace to York, or others, if they attempted similar hostilities. Ib. p. 347.

⁵² Ib. 283.

BOOK

I.

1455.

York again
made pro-
tector.

In October, the king's health again varied⁵³; and in November, York opened the parliament, as the king's lieutenant. The commons petitioned the lords, that if his majesty could not attend to the defence of the country, an able person should be appointed protector. There seems to have been some hesitation in the lords, to revive this high office; and the commons, after stating that great riots had occurred in the western counties, again urged their request. The chancellor consulted the lords. They agreed upon the expediency of compliance: and the duke was appointed protector and defender of the kingdom, with an income of 3,000 marks. He desired to be excused from the task, but his real or political reluctance was disregarded⁵⁴. The lower house described the commotions in Cornwall, Devon, and Somerset, to be tumultuary contests between the adherents of lord Bonville and the earl of Devon, and complained especially of the latter's attacking and robbing the church of Exeter, with 800 horse and 4,000 foot; and suggested, that the parliament should be prorogued or dissolved, that these disturbances might be quelled⁵⁵. On the 17th of November, the duke obtained the explanations he required, as to the authority he was to exercise; the next day he accepted the office, and four days afterwards, the privy council was directed to provide and speed all such matters as should concern the good governance of the land. Edward was created prince of Wales and duke of Cornwall. The former royal grants were resumed with numerous exceptions, and in the middle of December, the parliament was prorogued for a month⁵⁶.

Feb. 1456.
York dis-
placed.

Thus far York had made no pretensions to the crown, and the parliament had exhibited no intentions of affecting it. The change was but a new administration with a new chief presider; but this alteration did not last long; suspicion, or the competition of interests overturned this arrangement. The parliament had been suspended

⁵³ 1 Fenn. 119.⁵⁴ Parl. Rolls, 284, 5. This office was to end, when prince Edward reached the age of

discretion, if he should then wish to assume it himself. Ib. 289.

⁵⁵ Ib. 285; 332.⁵⁶ Ib. 286—321.

suspended to the 14th of January: and on the 25th of February, the queen and her friends regained such an ascendancy over the king and parliament, that the duke of York was on that day discharged from his protectorate⁵⁷. The king and queen seem not to have resided together. He is mentioned more than once as at Sheen, near Richmond, and she, at one time at Tutbury, and afterwards at Chester⁵⁸. But, apprehending the hostility of the city of London, to her measures, she removed him from it⁵⁹. The duke of York, from his castle at Sendal, watched her movements; at this period, the Kentish people were disposed to be unquiet⁶⁰, and lord Egremont, one of the queen's friends, made a serious attack on the earl of Warwick, in which many were slain⁶¹.

York dis-
missed.

Affairs rested in this position about two years: but the queen, during this period, is charged with entering into a conspiracy to destroy the duke of York and his friends; and that to mature it, she induced the king to make a progress into Warwickshire, for his health and recreation, and so with hawking and hunting, to avert all suspicion, brought him to Coventry, where the duke of York, and Salisbury and Warwick, were invited to meet them. Suspecting no treason, these noblemen arrived there unguarded; but a secret intimation of the intended mischief reached them in time to save their lives. They quitted the town with precipitation, and escaped; York to his castle at Wigmores, Salisbury to Middleham, and Warwick to Calais. This frustrated attempt, made the enmity between them and Margaret implacable and deadly⁶². No moderate measures, no future confidence, no solid peace could afterwards ensue.

Queen's plans
against him
and his
friends.

The

⁵⁷ Parl. Rolls, 321. Fabian, 461: he adds, that she discharged earl Salisbury from the chancellorship. But in December 1455, Thomas, Archbishop of Canterbury, was chancellor. Parl. Rolls, 321. If Fabian be correct, the prelate was displaced, that Salisbury might be appointed, and this, offending the church, may have caused the next revolution of the ministry.

⁵⁸ See 1 Fenn. 132 and 134. About this time a disturbance occurred in London, respecting foreign merchants, which Fabian details, p. 460; and to which the latter alludes in 1 Fenn. p. 132.

⁵⁹ Fab. 461.

⁶⁰ 1 Fenn. 137.

⁶¹ Fab. 462. Hall, 236.

⁶² Hall, 236. It was afterwards made one

BOOK

I.

1458.

Henry's effort
to conciliate
the nobles.

The king, whose heart was honest, and his disposition averse to all violence or discord, endeavored to effect a reconciliation between them⁶³, and invited the chief lords, of both parties, to London; they came in the beginning of the year, but with armed forces sufficient to prevent that sudden treachery⁶⁴, which each expected now from the other. In January, York took his abode at his mansion of Baynards castle, within the city; and the young duke of Somerset, with the duke of Exeter, were lodged without Temple-bar. In February, Warwick came with a great band from Calais, to the Gray Fryars; and in the middle of March, the king and queen, with a large retinue, occupied the bishop's palace. The warlike followers of all, were so numerous, and so mutually hostile, that the lord mayor had daily 5,000 citizens well armed, of whom nearly half kept guard all the night⁶⁵; an earnest negotiation followed, in which the archbishop of Canterbury took a zealous part⁶⁶. A temporary reconciliation was at last effected, and public processions were made to St. Pauls, to consecrate, to perpetuate, and to promulgate the amity⁶⁷. The king went in his royal habit and crown. Before him the according nobles walked hand in hand; Somerset with Salisbury, and Exeter with Warwick; while after the king, the duke of York led the queen, with great seeming familiarity⁶⁸; but it was only the theatrical pageantry of proud spirits, disdaining the reconciliation they condescended to act. Its pacific effects did not long survive its popular representation. Neither party had yet suffered enough to teach them the folly of that turbulent haughtiness, which a mechanical

of the treasonable charges against York, that at divers times, when sent for to come to the king's council, he disobeyed. *Parl. Rolls*, 348. Salisbury had before excused himself from coming to London, on account of sickness. 1 *Fenn*. 149.

⁶³ Whethampsted says, that the idea occurred to the king, as he was reading in his books alone.

⁶⁴ York attended with 140 horse, his own

household only; Salisbury with 400 horse, 80 knights, and some esquires; Somerset with 200 horse. 1 *Fenn*, 152, 1. Warwick received permission to come to London, with 24 foreigners. 11 *Rym*. 408.

⁶⁵ *Fab*. 463.

⁶⁶ 1 *Fenn*, 155. For the king's award on their pecuniary differences, see *Whet*. 418—428, and *Rym*. *Fed*. V. 11.

⁶⁷ *Fab*. 464.

⁶⁸ *Hall*, 238.

mechanical religion of the atoning ceremonies they could purchase, prevented them from feeling to be crime. Yet the ocular exhibition delighted the well-disposed; for it awakened those sweet sensibilities of the human heart, which make us welcome every appearance of affection, friendship, kindness, and tranquillity. The rude poetry of the day, gave its voice to express the public feeling, and to show that the most violent periods cannot wholly suppress the lovely charities of human nature⁶⁹.

A disastrous

⁶⁹ The following ballad was composed on the occasion, which may be read as a specimen of the feeling, though not of the poetry, of the truly patriotic. I modernize some of its orthography. It is in the British Museum MSS. Vesp. B. 16.

When charity is chosen with states to stand,
Stedfast and still without distance,
Then wrath may be exiled out of this land,
And God, our guide, to have the governance.

Wisdom and wealth, with all pleasaunce,
May rightful reign, and prosperity;
For love hath underlaid wrathful vemaunce.
Rejoice! England! our lords accorded be.

Rejoice! and thank God for evermore;
For now shall increase thy conciliation.
Our enemies quaken and dreaden full sore,
That peace is made where was division.

Which to them is a great confusion,
And to us joy and felicité.

God hold them long in every season,
That Angland may rejoice: concord and unité!

Now is sorrow with shame fled into Fraunce,
As a felon that hath forsworn this londe.

Love hath put out malicious gouvernaunce,
In every place, both free and bonde.

In Yorke, in Somerset, as I understande,
In Warrewik also, is love and charité;
In Salisbury eke, and in Northumberlande,
That every man may rejoice, concord and unité.

Egremont and Clifford, with other aforesaid,
Ben set in the same opynyon.

In every quarter love is thus laide;
Grace and wisdom hath thus the dominacion.

Awake! wealth! and walk in this region,
Round about in town and cité;
And thanke them that brought it to this conclusion.

Rejoice! England! to concord and unité.

At Paul's in London, with great renown,
On oure Ladyday in Lent, this peace was wrought.

The kyng, the quene, with lords many oone,
To worship that Virgine as they ought,

Went in a procession, and spared right nought,

In sighte of all the commonalte,
In token that love was in heart and thought.
Rejoice! England! to concord and unity.

Ther was between them lovely countenance,
Which was great joy to all that there were,
That long tyme hadden been in variance,
As friends for ever, that had been in fear.

They wenten togeder, and made good cheer.
France and Britayne! repent shall thee;
For the bargayn shall ye abide full dere.
Rejoice! England! to concord and unity.

Our sovereign lord king, God help alway;
The queen, and the archbishop of Canterbury;

And the bishop of Wynchestre, chancellor of Anglond,

And other that han labored to this loveday.

God preserve them, we pray heartily;
And London; for they full diligently
Kept the peace, in trouble and adversity;
To bring in rest they labured ful truly,
Rejoice! England! to concord and unity.

Of

BOOK

I.

1458.

The discord
revives.

A disastrous change was effected, by the consequences of a petty fray, or rather the minds of both parties continued to be so combustible, that the first spark re-inflamed them; a servant of the king's quarrelled with one of Warwick's, and attacked him. The earl's man fled, but the other being wounded, his fellow-menials assembled in great number, and watching the earl as he went from the council to his barge, assailed him with their swords, while others wielded their spits and forks. The earl having few attendants, was in great danger, and with difficulty escaped to the river. This unexpected attack in the moment of the most solemnly-affianced peace, was still more aggravated by the queen's commanding him to be apprehended, and sent to the tower, as if he had been the treacherous aggressor. A secret friend warned him of this order, and he departed immediately for his castle at Warwick, with a deep-seated conviction, that his destruction was resolved upon, and that the queen was capable of the most faithless violences to atchieve her purpose⁷⁰. From Warwick, he went to his government at Calais, where he defeated a Spanish fleet of 28 ships, in a naval battle; a greater than had occurred for the last forty years; and he waited with resentful caution, to see the course that his friends would pursue⁷¹.

York and Salisbury felt in this faithless conduct their own danger, and resolved to appeal to the king on the manifest perfidy. The queen, on her side, had been led into the apparent faithlessness, by the misstatement of her friends and her own too eager misconceptions. She was led to believe, that Warwick had contrived the affray, and that his object was to dethrone the king and exalt the duke of York. This idea had, by this time, become the

Of three things I prize the worthful city.
The first, the true faith that thei have to the
kyng;
The second, of love to the commonalty;
The third, good will for evermore keeping.
The which God maintain evermore duryng,
And save the mayor, and all the worthy city;

And that is amiss, God bring to amending,
That England may rejoice to concord and
unity.

⁷⁰ Fab. 465. Hall, 239.

⁷¹ 1 Fenn, 158. Whet. 447. And see
Rym. Fed. 11, p. 415

the popular report from the dread of one party, and the desire of the other. York had hitherto attempted no usurpation. But as the unpopularity of the government, made the event always possible, and the attempt inviting, nothing could dispossess the queen and her friends of the belief, that it was the resolution of York, and his noble friends, to effect it; and she seems to have caused its occurrence, by driving her opponents to the state of having no alternative between the action she most feared, and their own certain destruction by her power.

CHAP. XIX.

AT WARWICK. YORK REINFORCED. SECOND BATTLE OF
TUTT. YORK'S FIRST CLAIM TO THE CROWN. BATTLE
FROM GALAIS. BATTLE OF NORTHAMPTON. QUEEN'S
AND HIS FRIENDS. WARWICK AND EDWARD INVADE
CIVIL WAR. BATTLE OF BURNTHORPE. FLIGHT OF YORK

CONFIDENCE in each other being irretrievably lost, the appeal to arms for deadly purposes was resolved on. At the end of April, the king summoned his forces to meet him at Leicester, on the 10th of May; and the great nobles, York, Warwick, and Salisbury, projected a combined movement to surprise their antagonists. Their plan was to unite at Northampton, before the government heard of their advancing; and for this purpose, Warwick issued from Galais, and Salisbury from Middleham. But their counsels were betrayed; and Henry, was persuaded to move with celerity against Salisbury, while he was marching alone. So rapid was the king's unexpected advance, that Salisbury found himself anticipated; and to escape a force that he could not with prudence encounter, he was driven to make a larger

BOOK
I.
1450.
April—
August.
Civil war
begins.

HISTORY

OF

ENGLAND.

CHAP. XIX.

CIVIL WAR. BATTLE OF BLOREHEATH. FLIGHT OF YORK AND HIS FRIENDS. WARWICK AND EDWARD INVADE FROM CALAIS. BATTLE OF NORTHAMPTON. QUEEN'S FLIGHT. YORK'S FIRST CLAIM TO THE CROWN. BATTLE AT WAKEFIELD. YORK BEHEADED. SECOND BATTLE OF ST. ALBANS.

BOOK
I.

1459.

April—
August.
Civil war
begins.

CONFIDENCE in each other being irrecoverably lost, the appeal to arms for deadly purposes was resolved on. At the end of April, the king summoned his forces to meet him at Leicester, on the 10th of May¹: and the great nobles, York, Warwick, and Salisbury, projected a combined movement to surprize their antagonists. Their plan was to unite at Kenilworth, before the government heard of their advancing: and for this purpose, Warwick issued from Calais, and Salisbury from Middleham. But their councils were betrayed; and Henry, was persuaded to move with celerity against Salisbury, while he was marching alone. So rapid was the king's unexpected advance, that Salisbury found himself anticipated; and to escape a force that he could not with prudence encounter, he was driven to make a larger

¹ Fenn, 174—8.

a larger circuit, which brought him suddenly, with his 5,000 troops, in collision with a superior force, which lord Audley had collected from Cheshire and Shropshire, at Bloreheath, in Staffordshire, on the 23d of September. The queen and prince Edward had accompanied Audley to Chester, and summoned lord Stanley with other nobility to join the royal standard. Stanley declared he would lead its van division, but moved so slowly as to keep at a distance of six miles from both the queen and Salisbury; with the same feelings that afterwards actuated him in Bosworth-field¹. Audley took his station, and displaying the number of 10,000 men, Salisbury felt that he was circumvented: he saw that stratagem alone could produce victory; and he formed his plans with the hopes and the resolution of proud despair. He placed his camp that night by the side of a small but deep brook, beyond which his antagonists lay. In the morning his men shot their arrows over the stream on the confronting army, and then pretended to retreat. Audley, eager to obey the queen's orders to bring Salisbury alive or dead before her, began to pass the stream in eager pursuit. When Salisbury's watching eye had ascertained, that enough had crossed over to divide his enemies into two separated portions, he suddenly rallied and attacked that which had crossed. A fierce combat ensued; but the first body being discomfited before the other could get into action, it ended in the death and defeat of Audley. Salisbury's two sons were wounded, and as they were journeying homewards, were taken by the queen's friends, but the people rescued them. It is remarked, that the Welsh were generally favorable to the popular noblemen².

This victory enabled Salisbury to join the duke of York, who had collected a strong body, and encamped at Ludeford, near Ludlow.

There

¹ Parl. Rolls, 5, p. 348. On Stanley's conduct, see p. 369, 370. His absence is declared to have been a great cause of the defeat. His brother, sir William, was acting with Salisbury; and he himself wrote to the earl, congratulating him on his victory.

Salisbury sent this letter to sir Thomas Harrington, who showed it openly, saying, 'Sirs! be merry, for we have yet more friends.' Ib. 369. Yet the king would not consent to his impeachment.

² Hall, 240. Wheth. 456. Fabian, 465.

BOOK

I.

1459.

There Warwick met them with the best of his old soldiers from Calais, among whom sir Andrew Trollop was one of the most distinguished. The papers they dispersed, explaining their intentions, urged a change of administration, not of the dynasty³.

The royal army which had missed Salisbury, was moved by its skilful directors, rapidly to Ludlow, enlarging as it passed. It allowed no impediment to stop it, either from difficulty of the roads or intemperance of the weather, for thirty days: resting only on Sundays; and the king himself lodging sometimes in the bare fields. Proclamations, offering grace to all that would depart, and pardon to York and Warwick, if within six days they should request it, preceded them⁴. The three confederated noblemen answered by a letter to the king, asserting earnestly their loyalty to him, but complaining of their wrongs, and emphatically soliciting him not to apply his power to their destruction⁵. This request

³ A copy of the articles dispersed by Warwick, in the name of his party, on his march, are in the Harl. MSS. 543, p. 164. They are important, as showing the public grounds taken by the combined lords, as the justification of their treasonable warfare. They state,

1. That the common weal and good politic lawes had been piteously overturned.

2. That the crown property had been outrageously spoiled and robbed.

3. That sufficient was scarcely left for the sustentation of the royal household.

4. That the merchants and people had, by illegal novelties, suffered great extortions, without payment, from the ministers of the king's household.

5. That the government permitted great and abominable murders, robberies, perjuries and extortions; and favored and cherished, instead of punishing them.

6. That the king, from his own blessed conversation, and noble disposition, graciously applied himself to the common weal; but that certain persons, from their covetise, and that they might rule, had hidden all these evils from him.

They declared, that from the tender they bore to the realm, and proudly to the king's estate, they meant to go into his presence as true subjects; to shew him these inconveniences; lowly to beseech him to vouchsafe to redeem his land from this jeopardy; and, by the advice of the great lords of his blood, to redress it.

⁴ Whethamsted gives the reasons of the confederated lords, why these offers were not accepted. 1. We have had other pardons, but they have availed us nothing. 2. Because the king had degraded them both to the nobility and people; and had neither called them to his council, nor summoned them to parliament. 3. That the king's relations, with haughtiness and obstinacy, acted as they pleased. 4. That though the lords ought to have been called to parliament, and have full liberty of going, staying, and departing; yet, that when Warwick came, he had been so purposely surrounded and pressed on at Westminster, that he would have been infallibly suffocated, if an unexpected aid had not rescued him. p. 457.

⁵ 'We beseech your good grace to receive our

York's failure
at Ludlow, in
October.

request was disregarded. And on the 13th of October, the two armies were confronted. To silence the scruples of loyalty that were shaking some, York had recourse to a dangerous fraud, which recoiled on himself, when detected to be false. He caused some persons to swear in front of his army, that Henry had suddenly expired, and ordered the masses for the dead to be sung. The king was roused by his friends to an energy he had never felt before. He exhorted his troops "so knightly, so manly, and so comfortwise; with so princely appert and assured manner, that the lords and people took great joy, and only desired to fulfil his courageous desire⁶." This vigorous proof of the king's actual existence and new martial spirit, being communicated to York's army, revealed his deceitful falsehood. The waters being out, it was evening before the royal forces could take a suitable station. York skirmishing as he advanced, fortified his chosen ground, placed his cannon in front of his position, laid his ambushes, and prepared by an early morning attack to anticipate his opponents. But Trollop, on whom Warwick had principally confided, suddenly departed secretly in the night, and joined, with the chief soldiers from Calais, the royal banner. This desertion, the dismay it created, the instability of spirit that followed it in some, and the uncertainty how many would imitate the treachery, unnerved the courage of the rest: and York, at midnight, found it necessary to order a retreat, as failure was treason. A general dispersion followed. York fled through Wales with his youngest son to Ireland. His eldest, Edward lord March, now almost eighteen

our said truth and intent; and not apply your said blessedness, ne the great righteousness and equity wherewith God hath ever endued your high nobility, to the importune, impatience, and violence of such persons as intend of extreme malice to proceed, under shadow of your high might and presence, to our destruction, for such inordinate covetise as they have to our lands, offices, and goods.' They declared, that they would not use their defence

'until the time that we shall be provoked of necessity.' They mentioned, that they had sent him an indenture of their truth and loyalty by Dr. W. Lindwoode, who had taken, upon the sacrament, their oaths of truth and duty to him. Stowe's Chron. 405, 6. This solemn declaration of their loyalty, up to that time, is dated at Ludlow, 10 Oct. Ib.

⁶ These are the words of the Parliamentary Record. p. 348.

BOOK

XV.

1459.

eighteen years old, retired with Salisbury and Warwick into Devonshire. Lord Grey and others went to the king's tent and sued for pardon⁷.

The king's army, astonished at their easy triumph, plundered the duke's castle and town of Ludlow, and sent the duchess and her two youngest sons, one of whom was afterwards Richard III. then seven years old, to be kept in custody by her sister, the duchess of Buckingham⁸. A parliament was assembled at Coventry, on the 20th of November. The fugitive nobles were proclaimed traitors, and their estates confiscated⁹. Lord Stanley was spared, and the countess of Salisbury was charged with having counselled and abetted all the treason¹⁰. It was afterwards alledged, that this parliament was unduly summoned: that a great part of the county members and burgesses, had been named by the crown and returned, some without due election, and others without any election at all¹¹. But the queen's party had now unopposed sway. The command of the north was given to the earl of Northumberland and lord Clifford: and Somerset, as his father had been, was already appointed to take the captainship of Calais¹². The house of York seemed abased for ever.

But Warwick, Salisbury, and the young Edward, by the aid of a gentleman, John Denham, who became lord high treasurer to Henry VII. procured a ship at Exeter, which conveyed them to Guernsey. They rested secretly here till the 2d of November, and then sailed privately to Calais, where they were admitted by lord Fauconbridge, through a postern gate. Once safely within

⁷ Parl. Rolls, 348, 9. Fab. 466. Wheth. 459. 1 Fenn, 181. Hall, 241, 2.

⁸ Hearne's Fragment, 284. Fab. 466.

Parl. Rolls, 370. W. Wyr. 478.

¹⁰ Parl. Rolls, 349. She, on 1 August, at Middleham, and sir William Oldham and others, in London. Ib. This parliament was dissolved 21 Dec. 1459. p. 370. The king

had been at Coventry from 20 May to 26 June. 11 Rym. 453—5.

¹¹ Parl. Rolls, 374. Letters from the privy seal were sent to divers sheriffs of the preceding year, to proceed to the elections: and an act was passed, declaring their returns to be valid, and indemnifying them against the penalties for acting so illegally. Ib. 367.

¹² On Oct. 9. 11 Rym. 436.

within the walls, they met a joyful reception from its troops and people¹³.

CHAP.
XIX.

From such persons it was not easy for the duke of Somerset to take Calais. He repeatedly attacked it, but a vigorous artillery repulsed him. To co-operate with him, lord Rivers, the father of that lady who became afterwards the wife of the young Edward, against whom he was now acting; and lord Scales, a veteran soldier, collected a navy at Sandwich. But Denham was dispatched from Calais, at the end of January, to surprize these succors; and executed his task so ably that he took Rivers in his bed, and with his son and the shipping, returned triumphant to his friends¹⁴. Rivers was brought before the Yorkist lords, amid the light of 160 torches; and it is a curious instance of the human ignorance of futurity, that they assailed the father of their next queen, and whose marriage ultimately occasioned their destruction, with the most bitter reproaches. Salisbury called him, "knave's son;" and Warwick taunted him, with his father's being a squire, and himself only made of consequence by his marriage; and that it was not his part to talk of lords, as he had done. Edward also, unconscious of the then unknown Elizabeth, that was to win his fondest affection, "rated him in like wise¹⁵."

1460.
January.
Expeditions
from Calais.

York was received in Ireland, with an enthusiasm, which consoled his depression, and gave tokens of a brighter day¹⁶. The spring of 1460, evinced to both sides, that temporary victory was not permanent success. The popular feeling in England was discovered to be in favor of the noblemen in exile, and it was rumored, that they would soon be in it¹⁷. A naval force was again stationed at Sandwich, to assist Somerset to assault Calais, but

¹³ Fab. 466, 7. Whet. 474—6.

¹⁴ Whet. 476. Fab. 467. The king's letter, mentioning this event, is dated 10 Feb. 1460. 11 Rym. Fed. 440. But W. Paston's letter, of 29 Jan. notices it. 1 Fenn, 187.

¹⁵ We owe this interesting scene to W. Paston. 1 Fenn, 189. Denham received a wound

in this enterprize, which made him lame ever afterwards. Fab. 478.

¹⁶ Whethamsted says, they hailed him like another Messiah. p. 474.

¹⁷ The king's letters, of 22 February and 17 March, to his friends, so announced.

11 Rym. 444—7.

BOOK

I.

1460.

Warwick
consults with
York, in
Dublin.

Warwick
lands in Kent,
5th June.

but was again discomfited¹⁸. Another succor under lord Audley was driven into Calais, by a tempest, and secured¹⁹. The king, in coming to London, excited the people to join him as he advanced; and sent commissioners into several counties, ordering every man to be in his best array, ready to march when the orders should be sent²⁰.

The ministry perceiving that the dangerous attack must cross the channel, a strong fleet under the duke of Exeter was sent to guard it²¹. Warwick ventured to cross it from Calais, to concert with York at Dublin, the plan of their intended invasion. This voyage was a daring experiment on the fidelity of the English seamen. He returned with his mother, the proscribed countess of Salisbury, and met the fleet of Exeter, about Whitsuntide, off Cornwall. His capture was certain if the royal fleet had done its duty. But he was popular in the navy, and no one would act against him. To the vexation of Exeter, he passed through his ships unmolested, and returned to Calais in safety²².

The victories at Sandwich had given the command of the Kentish promontory to the revolted lords, and they ascertained the disposition of the Kentish men to be with them, provided they attempted nothing against the king's person²³. It was, therefore, resolved to land at this point, while York entered in the north from Ireland. After addressing, to the archbishop of Canterbury and commons of England, a statement of their complaints²⁴, at the end of May they left the French shore; and on the 5th of June²⁵, were on the English soil, but accompanied only by 1,500 men; with these, from Sandwich, they marched direct to Canterbury, and

¹⁸ Whet. 477. W. Wyr. 479. Fab. 478.

²² W. Wyr. 479. Fab. 478.

¹⁹ Whet. 477.

²³ Whet. 478.

²⁰ 1 Fenn, 189. The duke of Buckingham was rewarded for 'his attention to us in our journey, against the rebels in Kent.' 11 Rym. 443.

²⁴ See these at length, in Stowe's Chron. p. 407. The charge of duke Humphrey's murder is one of their allegations. Ib.

²¹ 11 Rym. 449. The order for its provisions is dated 30 March.

²⁵ The order in Rymer 11, p. 454, gives this date.

and after a brief pause, they moved immediately to London. So popular was their cause and so acceptable their declarations, that before they reached the metropolis, 40,000 men in arms had joined them²⁶.

This welcomed reception makes it important to consider what were the political questions, connected with these lords' resistance to the government, which so deeply affected the public sensibility. We have a document remaining, which fully acquaints us with the motives which actuated, on this occasion, our insurrectionary ancestors. It is the articles published by the men of Kent, when they assembled to greet and join the rebellious nobility. They shew, that it was the system of administration which had excited the public aversion, and was producing the civil war. There was no disloyalty to their good king Henry, nor any personal attachment to the house of York, independent of the redress of grievances, that became connected with his name. The line of York was not dearer to the nation than that of Lancaster; but because the latter supported the abuses which were felt to exist, and resisted the improvements that were desired; and because their measures to maintain the evils they espoused, endangered public liberty, and intruded on private property and comfort, the nation clung to the house of York, as its political deliverer, and identified the white rose with freedom of religious opinions, reformation of grievances, and preservation from arbitrary power²⁷.

As they approached the metropolis, Lord Scales attempted to defend

²⁶ Whet. 479. Lord Cobham was among these.

²⁷ These articles of the Kentishmen are preserved in the Harl. MSS. N° 543. The following is their substance. I have not seen them noticed before.

‘ These be the points and causes of the gathering and assembling of us, the king's true liegemen of Kent, the which we trust to remedy, with help of him the king, our sovereign ord, and all the commons of England :

‘ 1. The king, by the insatiable covetous-

ness, malicious purpose, and false-brought-up-of-nought persons, daily and nightly about his highness, is daily informed that good is evil, and evil is good.

‘ 2. They say, that our sovereign lord is above law, and that the law was made but to his pleasure; and that he may make and break it as often as him list, without any distinction. The contrary is true. And also, that he should not have been sworn, in his coronation, to keep it, which we conceive for the highest point of treason that any subject may

defend it: but the mayor and citizens, from their sympathy with the insurrectionists, declining to assist him, EDWARD, the eldest son of York, and their future sovereign, entered the city on the 2d of July, accompanied by Warwick and Salisbury²⁸. The pope's legate had ridden with them through Kent²⁹, and the archbishop of Canterbury attended them to London, with his cross borne in state before him³⁰. A convocation of the clergy assembled at St. Paul's church. The invading nobles recited the causes of their enterprize, and the misgovernment of the land, and swore

may do against his prince, to make him reign in perjury.

' 3. They say, how that the king should live upon his commons, so that all their bodies and goods been his. The contrary is true; for then he need never to set parliament to assess any goods of them.

' 4. Item, they inform the king, how that the commons would first destroy the king's friends, and after himself, and then bring in the duke of York to be their king; so that, by these false means and lesyngs, they made him to hate and to destroy his very friends, and love his false traitors, that call themselves his friends.

' 5. They say, it is a great reproach to the king to reassume what he has given away for livelihood.

' 6. The false traitors will suffer no man to come into the king's presence, for no cause, without he will give a bribe.

' 7. That the good duke of Gloucester was impeached of treason by one false traitor alone. How soon was he murdered! and never might come to his answer. And that false traitor *Poole*, impeached by all the commonalty of England, (the which number passed a quest of 24,000) might not be suffered to die as the law would: but rather these said traitors, at the said *Poole's* assent, that was as fals as *Fortiger*, would that the king should hold battayle in his own realm, in the destruction of all his people, and of himself, both.

' 8. They, whom the king will, shall be traitors, and whom he will not, shall be none.

' 9. The law seemeth only to do wrong.

' 10. That our sovereign lord may well understand that he hath had false counsel: *for his law is lost; his merchandize is lost; his commons bene destroyed; the sea is lost; France is lost; himself is made so poor, so that he may not pay for his meat ne drink; he oweth more, and is greater in debt, than ever was king in England.* This notwithstanding, yet daily these said traitors that bene about him, awaiten where any thing should fall, and come to him, and profit by his law, they bene ready enow to ask it from him.

' 11. They ask gentlemen's lands and goods in Kent, and call us risers and traitors, and the king's enemies; but we shall be found his true liegemen.

' 12. WE WILL that all men know, that we neither robbe nor stele; but the defaults amended, we will go home. Wherefore we exhort all the king's true liegers to help and support us.

' 13. *We blame not all the lords about the king's person, nor all gentlemen, nor all men of law, nor all bishops, nor all priests; but only such as may be found guilty, by a just and a true inquiry by the law.*

The papers end:

' God be our guide,

And then we shall spede,

Whoever says, nay.'

²⁸ Fabian, 469.

²⁹ W. Wyr. 480.

³⁰ Stowe's Chron. 408.

swore that they had ever borne true allegiance to Henry, and intended nothing against him³¹. Thus, what they had done received the sanction of the heads of the church; and a general determination was manifested to separate Henry from those who were misconducting the government. His deposition was not at this time projected. A new system of government would have satisfied the country. With this spirit, they determined promptly on their future measures. York had not yet reached them from Ireland, but his son Edward, of military talents superior to his father, was with them: and while Salisbury and Cobham, were left to watch lord Scales, in the tower, Edward with Warwick, Fauconbridge, and Bourchier, and attended by the archbishop of Canterbury, and four bishops³², advanced immediately on Coventry, then nicknamed "the queen's secret arbor"³³. A stream of popularity seems to have followed them³⁴. The king's friends were alert, and Somerset, Buckingham, and other great lords, collected their forces around him at Northampton³⁵.

The prelates who accompanied the popular nobles, sent the bishop of Salisbury to the king, to conjure him to prevent the effusion of blood, by a treaty of peace. But he returned answers of displeasure, mistrust, and contempt; for though Henry was pacifically disposed, the nobles on his side so relied on their own military skill, and the strength of their camp, that their inferiority in numbers, did not shake their resolution to abide the event of a battle. Hence they sent back abuse and insulting defiance³⁶.

The queen met the crisis with spirit and activity. She warmly harangued her army, and promised liberal rewards to all who should distinguish themselves. She had passed the Nene, and it was in the

Battle of
Northampton
10 July.

³¹ Stowe's Chron. 408. W. Wyr. 480. Whethamsted mentions the interposition of the spiritual lords, 479.

³² W. Wyr. 481. Stowe, 408.

³³ Hall, 244.

³⁴ Whethamsted mentions them to have

new been followed by an immense multitude; above 160,000. p. 479.

³⁵ The king was at Northampton on 7 July. 11 Rym. 457.

³⁶ Whet. 479, 480.

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new field between Harryngton and Sandifford, that her captains had strongly fortified themselves with high banks and deep trenches³⁷. The nobles surveying the entrenchment, resolved to attack it in three distinct bodies. The first was given to young Edward. The second to Warwick, and Fauconbridge led the third. On the 10th of July, 1460, in separate but simultaneous movements, they attacked the ditch of circumvallation full of stakes, hedge shrubs and small trees. The height and slope of the inward rampart, for a while baffled their attempts to ascend it. But lord Grey de Ruthyn, at his post, insidiously assisted them. His soldiers extending their hands, helped up the assailants into the royal camp³⁸. Warwick entered it about seven in the morning. Edward eagerly followed with his father's banner. The cavalry dismounting, fought on foot, and a desperate though short conflict of two hours, ended in the total discomfiture of the king's army. Buckingham, Talbot the son of the celebrated earl, lords Egremont and Beaumont, and many gentlemen, perished. The defeated were driven on the stream, and as an unusual flood from rain had made it wide and deep, many were drowned³⁹. Somerset narrowly escaped. The queen and her son were nearly taken in their flight by a retainer of lord Stanley, about Chester; and she was robbed of all her jewels and property by her own servants; but she got safe into Wales, with the prince, then but seven years old, and from Wales she fled into Scotland⁴⁰.

Edward and Warwick proceeded to the king's tent, and found him sitting alone and abandoned, lamenting the general madness that was raging round him. They bent before him to the ground, and

³⁷ Hall. The earl of Warwick sent bishops to be admitted to the king, to confer with him on the exigency. They being refused admittance, a herald was next commissioned. He being also prevented from access, a third messenger was sent, to declare, that before two hours after noon, the earl would either speak with Henry, or die in the field. Stowe's Chron. 409.

³⁸ Whet. 480, 1. W. Wyr. 481.

³⁹ Whet. 481. Fab. 469. Stowe mentions, that the rain was so heavy on that day, that the king's cannon could not be fired. 409.

⁴⁰ W. Wyr. 481, 2. 'She was robbed by the way in Lancastershire, of all her goods, to the value of ten thousand marks.' Stowe's Chron. 409.

and consoling him with reverential words, and soothing assurances, led him with every circumstance of honor into the town. In the morning, after returning thanks to heaven for their victory, they put him on a horse and marched back to London, where he was solemnly and affectionately received by all classes of the people; and the successful nobles treated him with every decorum, honor, and reverence⁴¹. Lord Scales delivered up the tower, and was entering a small boat to escape to the queen, when some watermen, part of Warwick's retainers, saw him, and inhumanly murdered him with their darts and daggers⁴². The bishop of Exeter, Warwick's brother, was made chancellor, and lord Bourchier, treasurer⁴³.

The duke of York was sent for from Ireland⁴⁴. His duchess came to London in the middle of September, but on his landing near Chester about that time, she went to Hereford to join him, leaving her children in the capital⁴⁵. The duke reached London on the 10th of October⁴⁶.

Thus far the insurrectionary nobles had disclaimed any idea of deposing Henry, or of changing the dynasty. Respect to the reigning sovereign had been combined with all their movements and successes. But now their councils altered, and a revolution as to the throne was determined upon. York's arrival in London, had been delayed three months from the victory at Northampton, probably to give time to settle this momentous point. Their reasons for the mutation have not been transmitted to us. But they are sufficiently inferable. If Henry had been unmarried, or had been wedded

⁴¹ Whet. 481, 2. The king reached London the 16th of July, and was lodged in the bishop's palace. Stowe's Chron. 409.

⁴² 'I saw him,' says W. Wyrcestre, 'lying naked near the church porch, in the burying ground of St. Mary Overy, Southwark. He had been stripped of his clothes, but was buried honorably, the same day, by Edward and Warwick.' p. 482.

⁴³ W. Wyr. 481.

⁴⁴ Fab. 469.

⁴⁵ 1 Fenn, 199. He landed about the 8th of September, and went to his castle at Ludlow. W. Wyr. 483.

⁴⁶ Fab. 469. As he came, he had commissions to sit in judgment in various towns, to inflict severities on the king's friends. Ludlow, Shrewsbury, Hereford, Leicester, and Coventry, are named. 1 Fenn, 201.

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1460.

wedded to a queen of peaceful and domestic temper, he would not have been dethroned. His gentle and unambitious spirit would have endangered no one. He forgot and forgave every offence and insult; and disliking all conflicts of violence, he would have allowed the resisting nobles, to have conducted the government as they wished. But Margaret had made herself the queen of a political party, and had imbibed feelings of implacable antipathy to her opponents. The king and his wife could not be kept long apart; and her return, from his yielding disposition, would have been followed by the destruction of those who had defeated her, and by a revival of all those plans and measures of government, which had been so odious to the liberalizing spirit of the nation. Hence a new king was represented as indispensable to the personal safety of all who had been in arms against the crown, and for the reformation of those abuses which had been so loudly censured: and York came to the metropolis to accomplish this revolution.

York claims
the crown,
16 October.

The parliament assembled in October, in the painted chamber. On the 16th of that month, the duke of York entered Westminster, in great state, with a numerous armed retinue sounding their horns and trumpets; and entering the palace, he proceeded to the house of lords. He passed through it to the throne, and placing his hand on the cushion, kept it there a short time, like a man meditating to take possession of his right; then withdrawing it, he turned to the peers; and standing under the royal canopy, he bowed while they applauded. The archbishop of Canterbury advanced, and asked him to go and see the king, who was then in the queen's palace. The duke haughtily answered, that he knew one in the kingdom, who ought not rather to come to him⁴⁷. Ambitious pride had now become his dominant passion, and judgment, and duty, and eventually his life, were sacrificed to its

⁴⁷ Whethamsted gives us these particulars, 484; and adds, that all ranks began to murmur at his behaviour.

its gratification. For the first time he publicly stated his title and made his claim to the crown, and delivered it in writing to the chancellor⁴⁸. When the duke of York's counsel on the next day prayed an answer, the lords thought that no subject could enter into any communication upon it, without the king's commandment and assent. They went to his majesty, and he desired them to search to find all the objections that could be made to the duke's title. They asked him if he had discovered any reasonable ones. He told them, that he had seen and understood many writings and chronicles. The great question was the next day referred to the justices, but after two day's deliberation, they stated, that as it touched the king's high estate and regality, it passed their learning, and they durst not decide upon it. The king's serjeant and attorney-general were ordered to argue on Henry's behalf: and they rested his cause on the former oath of allegiance of all the peers, on the act of parliament, and its entails, settling the crown in the house of Lancaster; on York's not having borne Lionel's arms; and on Henry the fourth's right as a conqueror⁴⁹. This was conceding York's lineal title which they could not dispute. His reply was heard⁵⁰: and the lords then decided that Henry should keep the crown for life, but that York and his family should succeed him. A new act of settlement to this effect was passed. The royal assent was given to it, and the opposing

His succession enacted.

statutes

⁴⁸ Parl. Rec. 374, 5. He claimed, as the lineal heir of Lionel, the third son of Edward III., and therefore as having a right before any issue of that king's fourth son, John of Gaunt, from whom the house of Lancaster, was descended.

⁴⁹ Parl. Rolls, 375—9.

⁵⁰ This was, that what was right was obligatory on every man: that no oath could discharge him from it; nor was any oath binding to the prejudice of another: and that no man is bound by his oath of allegiance to do an unlawful thing. The duke offered to refer this question to any competent spiritual judge. That as to the acts and entails alluded to,

Henry IV. could not have needed these enactments, if he had any title of inheritance; and that they were of no force against a right inheritor of the crown, both by divine law, and by all natural laws. That he had abstained from bearing the Lionel arms, as he had abstained pursuing his right, for causes not unknown to the realm; but, though right for a time rest and be put to silence, yet that it rots not, and shall not perish. The pretence of Henry IV. to be the true heir of Henry III., he asserted to be a mere saying, to colour his *unrighteous* and *violent usurpation*. Parl. Rolls, 377.

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I.

1460.

statutes were repealed⁵¹. Thus a new parliamentary right was added to the lineal title of the house of York. The king went to Eltham and Greenwich to hunt and sport, while his queen and son were with Exeter, seeking shelter in Wales⁵². This modified arrangement of the succession, was the suggestion of the most dispassioned and moderate part of the nobility, who sought to unite the preservation of their own honor and allegiance to Henry, with the personal and national advantages expected from a new dynasty. York and his two eldest sons swore to do nothing to abridge the king's life, or to diminish his dignity or liberty: and to imagine York's death, was enacted to be high treason⁵³. On the 31st of October, these points were finally adjusted.

The king, York, and several lords, afterwards rode in great pomp to St. Paul's to the even service, to return thanks for this peaceable settlement; and on the 9th of November, the duke was solemnly proclaimed heir apparent, and also lord protector, during the king's life⁵⁴. Till the arrangement was concluded, he declined to visit Henry, affirming, that he was subject to no man, and that the Deity only was his superior⁵⁵.

York persuaded Henry to send for his queen and son; but she disdaining the arrangement which dethroned her child, went to join her friends who, by using the king's name in the north, had assembled another army. The earl of Northumberland and lord Clifford met at York, with their force; to which city, the duke of Somerset, and earl of Devon, advanced with their friends from the western counties⁵⁶. The duke of York, leaving Warwick and Norfolk with the king, went himself with his son Rutland, and Salisbury, towards the north, directing his eldest son Edward to follow

⁵¹ Parl. Rolls, 378, 9. An income of 10,000*l.* a year was assigned to the duke of York. p. 380.

⁵² 1 Fenn, 201. The writer places Somerset at Dieppe, with sir A. Trollope, and others, under the king of France's safe conduct. *Ib.*

⁵³ Parl. Rolls, 379.

⁵⁴ Fab. 470, 1. The falling of the crown, that hung on a chandelier in the house of lords, at this time, impressed the populace with a feeling that it prognosticated a change of dynasty. Hall, 248.

⁵⁵ Fab. 469. Hall, 248.

⁵⁶ W. Wyr, 484.

follow him, with the rest of his army. On the 21st of December, York reached his castle at Sendal, with 6,000 men, and spent his Christmas there, while Somerset and his enemies lay at Pomfret, and Edward was as far off as Shrewsbury. The most judicious men seem on some critical occasions, actuated by an impulse or presumption so unreasonable, as to resemble a fatality. The duke exhibited this impression. Somerset, aware of his small army, advanced with 18,000 to besiege him. Sir David Hall, his old and faithful knight, advised him to stay within his castle, and defend it till his son Edward arrived with the forces he was collecting. The duke jealous of his own fame, perhaps of his son's rising reputation as a soldier, or urged by that mysterious influence which, though frequently occurring, no physical reasoning can explain, replied with great anger,—“Hast thou loved me so long, Davy! and wouldest thou now have me dishonored? Thou never sawest me keep fortress when I was regent in Normandy. But like a man, I issued forth and fought mine enemies, ever to their loss, and to my own honor. I will fight them, though I fight alone⁵⁷.” Salisbury seeing his determination and venerating its principle, felt that without an impeachment of his own courage, he could not refuse to act as he did: York took his station near his city of Wakefield, and fixing his tents, challenged the queen's army to appoint a day for the combat. It was not unusual in those chivalric times, to give and to accept such a defiance, and the arrangement was then solemnly abided by. But in civil war, honor, as well as law and morality is forgotten. The queen's friends fixed the day of battle; but observing that the duke's army was, in the meantime, remiss in its discipline, and that part frequently wandered about to forage, and that there was a general carelessness of guard, determined, in violation of their own compact, to attempt a surprize before the day named for the combat⁵⁸.

Somerset

⁵⁷ Grafton, 648. Hall, 250. Fab. 471.

that part of York's forces were out foraging.

⁵⁸ Whet. 489. W. Wyrcestre mentions,

485.

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I.

1460.

30th Dec.
Battle of
Wakefield.

Somerset moved the royal army in three divisions; reserving the main battle for himself, he detached lord Clifford with a body to act separately on the left, and the earl of Wilts, with another on the right. York, instead of retreating into the castle, with courageous infatuation, hastily arranging the forces he had with him, advanced against the great central mass under Somerset, and was immediately out-flanked and surrounded by Clifford and Wiltshire. A desperate but unequal conflict ensued, that under such arrangements, could have but one termination. Every personal motive made it deadly. Both sides were fighting for life, and for all that made life valuable to them,—honor, fame, power, property and comfort. But surrounded by a trebly superior force, directed by competent skill, with equal bravery, knightly valor could not long avail⁵⁹. In half an hour, the duke of York, whose foot had been almost on the throne, was with Salisbury, in their hands a prisoner, and 2,800 of his followers were slain—victims to his pride of untainted valor. The priest who was the tutor to his second son Rutland, led the interesting youth, not twelve years old, out of the bloody field towards the town. Clifford saw his rich dress, followed, overtook him on the bridge, and demanded what he was; the boy, speechless from alarm, fell on his knees and held up his hands, and raised his imploring eyes. “Save him,” said the chaplain, “He is the son of a prince, and may do you good hereafter.” “The son of York!” shouted the vindictive lord, remembering his own loss at the battle of St. Albans. “Thy father slew mine, and so will I thee and all thy kin;” and to the destruction of his own character, buried his dagger in the youth’s heart⁶⁰! York himself was taken to a little ant-hill, and placed in mockery on that as upon a throne: a crown was hastily twisted of grass, and forced on his head; and bowing their knees to him, in deriding homage, they cried out, “Hail! king, without a kingdom! Hail! prince, without a people!” And then struck off his head.

York-killed.

⁵⁹ Grafton, 649. Hall, 250.⁶⁰ Grafton, 649. Hall, 251.

head⁶¹. Clifford presented this on a pole to the queen. "Madam, your war is done; here is the ransom of your king." Such a scene was a satire on their inhumanity and folly. It was received with a laughter at which sensibility must have shuddered; and it roused a public indignation that destroyed all the advantages of their success. The queen sent Salisbury and other valuable prisoners to Pomfret, to be beheaded; and their heads were placed on the gates of York⁶².

Edward, on this disaster, having, from earl of March, become the duke of York, found none of his father's friends discouraged by his fate. A large army of Welsh borderers, fond of a prince of the race of their own Mortimer, crowded around him; and when Jasper, earl of Pembroke, with Owen Tudor his father and the earl of Wilts, advanced with a mixed force of Welsh and Irish to surprize him, the young prince, with a greatly superior force, overpowered and defeated them, with the loss of 3,800 men. The two earls fled and escaped; but Owen Tudor, the husband of queen Catherine, and whose grandson was afterwards raised to the English throne, under the title of Henry VII., was taken and beheaded at Hereford⁶³.

1461.
2 February.
Battle of
Mortimer's
Cross.

While these incidents occurred in Wales, the queen, eager to pursue her victory, marched up to London to regain possession of both the king and kingdom. The dukes of Exeter and Somerset, the earls of Northampton, Devon, and Shrewsbury, with some lords, and 24,000 soldiers, accompanied her. Success at first attended her martial movements.

The earl of Warwick and the duke of Norfolk marched out of London

1461.
17 February.
Second battle
of St. Albans.

⁶¹ Whet. 489.

⁶² Grafton, 649. Hall, 251. W. Wyr. 485. Whet. 495. Hearne's Frag. 284. Parl. Rolls, 5, p. 466. Fab. 471. York's two younger sons, one of them the future Richard III, now eight years old, were sent to Utrecht. Hearne's Frag. 284. Fab. 472.

⁶³ Grafton, 650, and Hall, 252, mention the project of surprize; but Wyrcestre states the number of Edward at 51,000, and of his opponent at 8,000. p. 486. If so, this is another of those rash battles which took place in this war.

London with the king, as the legal chieftain of their army, to meet her. To wait for an adequate force seems to have been a policy, that was incompatible with the high-spirited pride of the renowned fighters of the day. Warwick took his station at St. Albans. York's former victory there may have occasioned him to select this town as the place of battle. The queen's forces attacked. But the archers near the great cross repulsed them. They rallied and penetrated by an alley into St. Peter's street; and there a serious conflict began, which was succeeded by a fiercer battle on the heath, at the north end of the city, between part of the two armies. Warwick with all the personal bravery of the soldier, was not equally possessed of the skill of the general. The abbot of the town declares, that if his troops had pressed fiercely on the queen's adherents, with persevering attacks, they would have infallibly succeeded. Five thousand only of his forces maintained the struggle in this direction, and instead of the rest of his army being moved to their support, they were allowed to be broken and to be pursued; when the other divisions, though still 20,000 men, dispersed also into flight. The king's manifest indifference or dislike to the party he was with, contributed to the result: for the nobles in the army seeing, that he displayed no spirit or mind, or animating gestures, or discourse, but inclined only to his wife and her friends, withdrew in vexation and disgust; and Henry, as in a former battle, was found standing alone, without lords, knights, standard bearer, armor bearers, or any of the men at arms, who had been placed at his side, for the safe guard of his person. He was taken to lord Clifford's tent as the nearest, and the queen and prince were brought to him. He received them with great joy, embraced them, kissed them eagerly, gave thanks to heaven, and knighted his son, then a boy about seven years of age. The abbot humbly begged he would save the town from being plundered: but the boisterous northern soldiers declared, that they had been promised the plunder of all places beyond
beyond

beyond the Trent as their reward, and they claimed and exercised unsparingly the granted right of promiscuous pillage⁶⁴.

This partly vindictive and partly political promise and permission, operated only to exasperate the country, and to make her victory a barren laurel. Her army had signalled itself by depredation from York to St. Albans. Whatever they could carry or destroy, was seized and spoiled. No monasteries or churches were spared. They took away what was transportable, and devastated what they were obliged to leave⁶⁵: and a general dread and aversion at their conduct, excited a wish for their discomfiture and a deprecation of their further successes.

At this critical juncture Edward appeared in London, eight days after the battle of St. Albans. He was received with a transport of joy, though scarcely nineteen: and a profound and perplexing consultation began, what measures were the most expedient now to be adopted. Most of the gentry from the south and east of England, flocked into London to welcome him⁶⁶. He counselled and communicated daily with the prelates and lords in the metropolis, and with other solid and sensible men⁶⁷. The great question to be now decided was, did the national welfare as well as their own, make an alteration of the dynasty inevitable; or could Henry's reign be prolonged without sacrificing the general good. The queen had not only drawn the revengeful sword, but had thrown away the scabbard; and the late events had shewn, that Henry was unchangeably identified with her. The blood that had been shed, made compromise both impossible and undesired. Neither party would now forgive the other. One must triumph and the other fall. The day of moderation had passed, and that of extremes had come on. In such a state of things the triumphant party would of course determine in favor of the alternative that

Edward
arrives in
London.

⁶⁴ Whet. 497—504. The most distinguished person who fell in this battle, on the queen's side, was sir John Grey, whose widow, Elizabeth, became the queen of Edward IV.

⁶⁵ Whet. 495; 504.

⁶⁶ Fab. 472.

⁶⁷ Whet. 511, 12. W. Wyr. 488.

BOOK

I.

1461.

Edward
made king,
4 March.

most suited its interests; and in conformity with the opinions and wishes of the first men of the country then in London, the populace assembled in the fields beyond Clerkenwell. The chancellor explained Edward's claim. Lord Falconbridge expatiated on Henry's misgovernment; and all the people, with loud acclamations, proclaimed Edward to be their king⁶⁸. The lords and commons in a hasty meeting, at Barnard's castle, confirmed the election. Edward hesitated awhile in accepting the throne; he had sworn not to disturb Henry during his life. The chances of war had exceedingly fluctuated. The queen had yet an unbroken army that had been twice victorious. But there was no safety now to himself or to his supporters in refusing it, and the populace were cordially with him. Youth and ambition yielded to the splendid temptation. On the 4th of March, 1461, he went as king to St. Paul's⁶⁹, and thence to Westminster to the royal throne, in the house of lords, and declared, to all that assembled, his genealogy and title. He sat awhile with the sceptre, and then proceeded under a canopy to the abbey, and putting on the crown, and holding the sceptre of the confessor at the great altar, he again explained his title, and received the homage and fealty of the nobility, while the people shouted their salutations. Getting afterwards into his boat, he was rowed to London; and the next day was proclaimed king through the city, by the title of Edward IV⁷⁰.

In the mean time, Henry happy at rejoining his son, having dubbed him the same evening a knight, with thirty other youths, who had partaken of the honor of the day, it was for the queen and her advisers to decide, whether she ought not to march immediately to London. In war, the spirit of adventure is much oftener wisdom than hesitating caution. The knowledge that the citizens were against her, and if made desperate, were numerous enough to endanger her; the certainty from experience, that her troops

⁶⁸ 'I was there,' says W. Wyrcestre.
'I heard them, and I returned with them
into the city.' p. 489.

⁶⁹ W. Wyr. Hall,

⁷⁰ Whet. 512—14. W. Wyr. 489. Hearne's
Frag. 286. Hall. 254.

troops if marched to the metropolis, would expect the plunder of the city, a measure perilous from its consequences to her future government; a perception how much their unbridled violences had already injured her⁷¹; and perhaps a humane reluctance to so dreadful a calamity, suspended her progress, and contenting herself with demanding supplies from the metropolis, she paused at Dunstable. The populace stopped the carts at Cripplegate that were destined for her, and repulsed there some of her cavalry which came to plunder. To allay her irritation at this opposition, the duchesses of Bedford and Buckingham, with lady Scales, accompanied the recorder to Barnet, as an embassy, soliciting pardon and peace: and the queen and her council appointed some lords, with a detachment, to reconnoitre the city⁷².

This hesitation was fatal to her interest. If she had marched straight from her victory to the metropolis, the sudden dismay might have placed it in her hands. By pausing, she gave time for the success of Edward at Mortimer's Cross, to become known both to his own friends and to the citizens, and for his arrival in the capital; and the impression of her own successes immediately diminished. The report that he had met the defeated Warwick at Chipping Norton, and was advancing on London, completed her alarm. London she saw was hostile. Kent she knew was so, and Essex she could not trust. She saw no safety but in the north; and in an evil hour for herself, she withdrew towards it, accompanying her retreat with an act of severity, that could but increase the

Queen retires
to the north.

⁷¹ To the authorities on this point already cited, we may add, Hist. Croyl. 531; the speaker's speech to parliament, Parl. Rolls, 5, p. 462; and the act of attainder, p. 476. The letters from a friend of the Warwick family, in 1 Fenn, 207, dated January 1461, implies both the fact and the effect. 'In this country, every man is well willing to go with my lords here; and I hope God shall help

them. For the people in the north rob and steal, and *be appointed* to pillage all this country, and give away men's goods and livehoods in the south country. My lords have much to do to keep down all this country, more than four or five shires; for they would be for upon the men in the north: for it is for the weal of the south.'

⁷² W. Wyr. 487. Fab. 471. Hall. 252.

BOOK

I.

the enmity against her⁷³, and the dread of her success⁷⁴.
She never had any reasonable prospect of the throne again⁷⁵.

1461.

⁷³ W. Wyr. 487, 8. Hall, 253.

⁷⁴ Against Henry's wishes, she had lord Bonville and sir Thomas Kyrrel beheaded. Hall, 253.

⁷⁵ The transactions between England and Scotland, after the release of James I. from his captivity, in 1423, who had married the first earl of Somerset's daughter, were not of great importance during the reign of Henry VI. A truce of seven years was made in 1424, and renewed for five years, from 1431. In 1437, James was murdered. His son James II.

accessed at the age of six years; and a truce was made with England in 1438, for nine years. Mutual border incursions violated this pacification, for a short time, in 1449; but in that year, the truce was renewed for an unlimited period, which was afterwards made definite to 1457, and again prolonged to 1468. In 1460, James II. was killed at the siege of Roxburgh, and was succeeded by his son James III. who reigned till 1468. Henry's Hist. Eng. V. 9, and Pinkerton's Hist. Scotl. V. 1.

Queen retires
to the north.

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them. For the people in the north had been, and he appeared to possess all this country, and give away more goods and livings than he could give. My lords have much to do to keep down all this country, more than four or five shires; for they would be for upon the men in the north: for it is for the good of the south.

⁷⁶ W. Wyr. 487. Hall. 253.

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HISTORY OF ENGLAND.

BOOK II.

REIGN OF EDWARD THE FOURTH.

1461—1483.

CHAP. I.

BATTLE OF TOWTON. EDWARD'S CORONATION. BATTLE OF
HEXHAM. HENRY TAKEN. EDWARD'S MARRIAGE. PRO-
MOTION OF THE QUEEN'S FRIENDS. WARWICK'S DIS-
CONTENT.

THE warmest sympathies of the people had raised Edward to the throne¹, and even the church abandoned the house of Lancaster, and contributed both to elevate and support him². The ecclesiastic establishment found the queen and her friends more disposed to become its plunderers than its protectors³. The clergy,

CHAP.
I.

¹ The monk of Croyland is emphatic. 'The nobles of the kingdom, and all the people of the midland part of England, and of the east, west, and south, deserted Henry. They directed solemn ambassadors to Edward in Wales, to declare to him the wishes of the people, and to urge him to hasten into England, to help them, as delay was producing the danger,' p. 532.

² Hearne's Fragment mentions, that all gentlemen, both spiritual and temporal, from the greater part of the east and west, came to London to welcome Edward. p. 285. And Croyland, that he was received '*a clero et universo populo*,' with immense joy. 532.

³ Croyland has left us one picture of this conduct. 'Elated by this victory, (Wakefield) they rushed like a whirlwind over England, and

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II.

1461.

clergy like the people, saw in Henry, a feeble, disabled, incompetent, though well-wishing king; and the uxoriousness natural to his debility, made the queen and her passions, prejudices, and craving adherents, the governors of the kingdom, not the general good. In this unhappy state, loyalty was sacrificed to expediency and resentment; and the new dynasty was created.

But the queen was now in the north, with a larger army raised in that part of England, than either party had yet commanded. Edward with that promptitude of military judgment, which gave him victory in every battle he fought, declined to be crowned⁴, while this was unbroken; and on the day after his election, sent the duke of Norfolk into his county to raise men. On the next day, the 6th of March, Warwick went northward with his forces. On the 10th, the king's infantry followed: and on the 12th, the eighth day after his elevation, he left the metropolis himself, through Bishopsgate, with the rest of his forces⁵. He ordered lord Fitzwalter to take and maintain the passage at Ferrybridge.

Queen's
success at
Ferrybridge.

The chief Lancastrian generals, were Somerset, Northumberland, and Clifford, with sir Andrew Trollope; leaving Henry, the queen, and prince, at York, they advanced to meet Edward: and lord Clifford, with their cavalry, attempted to take the post at Ferrybridge, by surprize. This unexpected attack succeeded. Fitzwalter hearing an alarm sprang out of his bed, and seizing his battle-axe, rushed without his armor into the conflict and soon perished. Warwick apprized of the disaster, hastened with the news to his friends. Edward immediately ordered every one to depart who was averse or afraid to fight, and promised rewards to all who were faithful, and to those who should destroy any one, that when the battle begun, should retreat. Lord Falconbridge was dispatched

and plundered it, without respect of persons or place. They attacked the churches, took away their vessels, books, and clothes; even the sacramental pyxes, shaking out the eucharist; and slew the priests who resisted.

So they acted, for a breadth of thirty miles, all the way from York nearly up to London.
p. 531.

⁴ Croyl. 532.

⁵ Hearne's Frag. 286.

dispatched to take a short circuit and surround Clifford, who fell back to prevent this evil. But his retreat was intercepted, and while displacing his gorget from pain or heat, an arrow lighted on his throat, and he immediately expired⁶.

Lord Falconbridge advanced in the twilight, with the van of Edward's army. Warwick followed with the main body, and sir John Wenlock conducted the rear. A sanguinary proclamation was made, that no prisoners should be taken, and no enemy saved. At nine in the morning both armies began to come in sight of each other near Towton, about eight miles from York. Edward waited a short time for the arrival of the rest of his force, which soon came up in good order. Both parties prepared for a decisive conflict, with resolute courage. Henry's number was computed at 60,000 men. Edward's was 48,660. These were the largest armies of Englishmen that had ever yet disputed with each other for a sovereign. It was the eve of Palm-sunday, the commencement of the most solemn and affecting week of the whole Christian year; a season that rebuked, with silent eloquence, the purposes and the spirit of both. But soldiers, like statesmen, have little sympathy in the acting of their schemes, with the feelings and hopes of religion, whatever recollections or remorse may afterwards occur. The two hosts were too eager for revenge and victory to moralize. As if battle were the gate of paradise, and the future an incomprehensible dream, they raised against each other a tumultuous shout of execration and defiance, and at four o'clock in the afternoon⁷, within three hours of complete darkness, began the mortal struggle by lord Falconbridge advancing to attack. The wind was at first blowing strong against Edward's front; but as he was commencing the battle, it veered round, and setting full against his adversaries⁸, drove a small flight of snow

⁶ Clifford being particularly hated for his murder of the young Rutland, his son was concealed, and brought up as a poor shepherd, till Henry VII. obtained the crown, when he

was restored to his father's estates. Hall 253.

⁷ Hearne's Frag. 287.

⁸ Whet. 516.

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II.

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snow on their faces. Falconbridge ordered his archers to shoot one flight of arrows and no more. These being aimed well took effect. The Lancastrians were eager to return the mischief, but not able to discern the true distance for their pull from the snow, and the wind breaking the force of their shafts, their shot fell many yards short of the Yorkists. They were suffered to expend their quivers thus unavailingly without knowing it, while the others picked them up, and then returned both these and their own, with a destructive annoyance, which excited Northumberland and Trollope, who commanded the van guard, to advance immediately into a close combat⁹.

If either party hoped to decide the field before night-fall, both were disappointed by their mutual determination. The shades of evening came on, and neither had given way. The faint twilight disappeared and darkness followed, yet both were still fighting and too furious to leave off. In vain resting nature summoned them to pause. All night they continued, as far as they could, the dismal struggle, disturbing its awful repose with the groans of dying misery; the fierce clashing of arms, at times enlightning the gloom by the sparks struck out in their collision. What light could be obtained from fires and torches in some important stations was supplied. This midnight combat produced much disorder in both armies, but gave advantage to neither. The cheerful dawn appeared, but only to re-animate them to pursue the demon-work of rage and death. The sun again rose and proceeded onward to his noon, and yet the dreadful battle raged with lavish but still with indecisive slaughter. Edward had practised his father's policy of carefully replacing the weary and wounded, by fresh men as long as he had any. But the conflict had now lasted so long, that all had been used, and the superior numbers of the queen's party began to be felt. At this critical juncture when both sides were nearly exhausted, the duke of Norfolk arrived about noon, with

⁹ Hall, 256. Whet. 516.

with the new force he had been sent to raise¹⁰. This supply decided in Edward's favor, a struggle of an obstinacy rarely exemplified and of a kind most abhorrent to humanity. Both sides gave no quarter—no one demanded any. Each individual fought for life and victory. Tenants were contending against their lords; sons, brothers, nephews were striking at each other, and at their dearest relatives. As Henry's side at last gave way, it was found that the earls of Northumberland and Westmorland had perished in the field, with Trollope and many other distinguished persons. The earls of Devon and Wilts were taken. The dukes of Somerset and Exeter escaped¹¹. All the high road from the place of battle almost to the walls of York, for six miles, was stained with blood, and strewn with corpses¹². For two or three miles round the village, the streams of human life lay mixed with the snow, in furrows and puddles, revolting human sight and accusing human wickedness¹³. It snowed all the time of the murderous conflict¹⁴. It was the greatest, most destructive, and most decisive of all the battles that Englishmen had ever fought, either at home or on the continent. From 30 to 40,000 persons perished in these two dreadful days¹⁵. The human heart revolts from this mass of blood and death: and as wars are evils of our own, and not of nature's production, we may blush or tremble, in contemplating these works of our self-will, that the divine image within us should for vile

¹⁰ We owe the remarkable fact, of the battle beginning at four o'clock in the afternoon, and continuing through the night, and of Norfolk's coming up the next day at noon, to Hearne's Fragment. p. 287.

¹¹ Hearne's Frag. 287. Croyl. 532. Fab. 473. Some of the names of the noblemen mentioned in Paston's letters, in 1 Fenn, 218—221, as having fallen, are wrong.

¹² Whet. 516.

¹³ Croyl. 533.

¹⁴ Hearne's Frag. 287.

¹⁵ Croyland mentions, that they who buried

the dead declared, that 38,000 had fallen. p. 533. The Fragment makes the number on both sides 33,000. p. 287. Fabian says, that 30,000 fell. p. 473. Hall enumerates the slain in this battle, and at Ferrybridge, during the three days, at 36,776 persons. p. 256. This has an appearance of minute accuracy. The letter-writer at the time, in Fenn, makes the number on Henry's side alone, 20,000; but the list annexed to it gives the number of these, as reported by the heralds, to be 28,000. V. 1, p. 219—21. Hence the 9,000 in Wyrcestre must be a mis-copy of his figures. Many of them are wrong in other places.

vile passions and sordid interests, thus defile its sublime nature, and defy the laws and wishes of its mighty and benign original. It is inconsistent for man to complain of the evils of this life and yet to sanction, panegyryze, or practise warfare, the most extensive of those human miseries, with which mankind have deliberately afflicted themselves.

London was in great anxiety for the event, till Edward's letters to his mother arrived there on Easter eve, with the welcomed intelligence¹⁶.

Edward marched immediately to York, took down the heads of his father and Salisbury, and buried them; but imitating the queen's resentment, beheaded the earls of Devon and Wiltshire, with others. While his light cavalry were out searching for Henry and the queen, these unfortunate sovereigns reached Berwick, and from thence sailed to Scotland, imploring aid of its king. He received them kindly, and appointed them an honorable support, which they rewarded by a gift of the town of Berwick¹⁷.

1461, June.
Edward
crowned.

Edward passed his Easter at York, and moved on to Durham, completing the subjection of the country. He left Warwick to watch the queen's movements, and returning towards the metropolis, on the 1st of June arrived at Sheen¹⁸. Carlisle being endangered by the Scots, he was about to defer his coronation again that he might relieve it; but news arriving that lord Montague had defeated the besiegers¹⁹; he prepared for his final honor; and on the 26th of June, made his triumphant entry into London to receive it. The lord mayor and aldermen in scarlet, with 400 of the

¹⁶ 1 Fenn, 219. Hearne's Frag. 287. Dr. Morton was taken at this battle. Fenn, 223. Hastings, on Edward's side, was here made a knight. Ib. 219.

¹⁷ Hall, 256. The act of attainder recites the delivery of Berwick; and also notices an attempt to give Carlisle to the Scots, 'the key of the west marches of England.' Parl. Rolls, p. 478. It is justice to the queen to

add Fabian's paragraph. 'Thus the noble and most bounteous princess, queen Margaret, of whom many untrue surmise was imagined and told, was fain to fly comfortless, and lost all that she had in England for ever.' p. 473.

¹⁸ Fab. 474.

¹⁹ 1 Fenn, 231. On 26 June 1461, Henry and lord Ross were again defeated at Ryton and Brauncepath, in Durham. P. Rolls, 478.

the common council, well horsed and clad in green, met him on the way, and conducted him to the Tower. The next day, he made thirty-two knights of the Bath, and these in the afternoon, preceding him in their gowns and hoods of white silk, conducted him to Westminster. On Sunday the 29th of June, he was solemnly crowned there by the archbishop of Canterbury, with great triumph and pomp²⁰. In the autumn, the queen's friends were discomfited in Wales²¹.

On the 4th of November, his first parliament met²². The speaker addressed him, with much complimentary flattery, even noticing his personal advantages²³; but closing more wisely with a request, that the extortion, murder, rape, effusion of innocent blood, riot, and unrighteousness, which had in Henry's time been permitted with impunity, might be corrected and punished. Acts were passed, declaring Edward's title to the crown, and pronouncing Henry to be an usurper; attainting the nobles and gentry, who had most distinguished themselves against the house of York²⁴; vesting

²⁰ Hearne's Frag. 288. Fab. 474.

²¹ Duke Exeter, Jasper earl Pembroke, and others, were embattled against Edward's forces on the 13th of October, at Tatehill, near Carnarvon. 5 P. Rolls, 478. But a letter in Fenn states the result. 'All the castles and holds, both in South Wales and North Wales, are given up into the king's hands, and duke Exeter and earl Pembroke are fled, and taken the mountains; and divers lords, with great puissance, are after them; and the most part of gentlemen and men of worship are come in to the king.' 1 Fenn, 243.

²² Among the lords who then assembled, were,

Duke of Norfolk.	Lords Graystock.
Earls Warwick.	Audley.
Worcester.	Scroope.
Essex	Clinton.
Kent.	Hastings.
Lords Grey of Ruthyn.	Cobham.
Southwick.	Stourton.
Scroop of Upsal.	Fitzhugh.

The spiritual peers named, were,

Abps. of Canterbury.	Bps. of Worcester.
York.	Lincoln.
Bps. London.	Durham.
Winchester.	Bangor.
Rochester.	Chester.
Ely.	

Seven abbots, and the prior of St. John. Parl. Rolls, V. 5. p. 461.

²³ 'The beaute of personage that it hath pleased Almighty God to send you.' Parl. Rolls, 5, p. 463.

²⁴ The chief were, Somerset and Exeter; the earls of Devonshire and Northumberland, who had fallen; the earls of Pembroke and Wilts; lords Ross and Neville, Beaumont, Clifford, Wells, and the deceased lords Rouge-mont and Dacre; sir John Skydmore; with many knights, and some priests and esquires. Parl. Rolls, 5, p. 477—83.

BOOK

II.

1461.

vesting all the possessions of Henry in Edward; confirming the new king's grants to his mother²⁵, and repealing the former enactment against his father and his friends. A statute, important to the pacification of the country, was made, prohibiting the great and rich from giving or wearing any liveries or signs of companionship, except while serving under the king; from receiving or maintaining plunderers, robbers, malefactors, or unlawful hunters, and from allowing dice and cards in their houses beyond the twelve days of Christmas²⁶. Edward created several peers; and closed the session by the unusual, but popular measure, of a speech to the commons, not strictly grammatical, delivered by himself from the throne²⁷.

Queen Margaret continued in Scotland with her husband and son²⁸; but her friends in France, though themselves distressed, continued to counsel her with their best advice, and to cheer her with distant hopes²⁹. The nation manifestly favored the change of dynasty,

²⁵ These were three annuities, of 400*l.*; 289*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*; and 100*l.* Parl. Rolls, 484.

²⁶ Parl. Rolls, 488.

²⁷ He began with addressing their speaker by his name. 'James Strangways, and ye that be come for the commons of this my land, for the true hearts and tender considerations that ye have had to my right and title, that I and my ancestors have had unto the crown of this realm, the which from us have been long time withheld: and now, thanked be Almighty God, of whose grace groweth all victory, by youre true hearts and great assistance, I am restored unto that which is my right and title. Wherefore I thank you, as heartily as I can. Also for the tender and true hearts that ye have shewed unto me, in that ye have tenderly had in remembrance the correction of the horrible murder and cruel death of my lord my father, my brother Rutland, and my cousin of Salisbury, and other, I thank you right heartily. And I shall be unto you, with the grace of Almighty God, as good and gracious sovereign lord, as ever was any of my noble progenitors to their subjects and liegemen.'

'And for the faithful and loving hearts, and also the great labours that ye have borne and sustained towards me, in the recovering of my said right and title, which I now possess, I thank you with all my heart. And if I had any better good to reward you withall, than my body, ye should have it; the which shall always be ready for your defence; never sparing nor letting for no jeopardy; praying you all for your hearty assistance and good continuance, as I shall be unto you your very righteous and loving liege lord.' Parl. Rolls, 5, p. 487.

²⁸ He at Kirkcudbright, she and the prince at Edinburgh, in the autumn of 1461. 1 Fenn, 249.

²⁹ Lord Hungerford, who had been arrested at Dieppe, thus wrote to her: 'Madam, fear you not, but be of good comfort; and beware that ye adventure not your person, nor my lord the prince, by the sea, till ye have other word from us, unless your person cannot be sure there as ye are, and that extreme necessity drive you hence. And for God's sake let the king's highness be advised the same; for as we be informed, the earl of March is in Wales'

dynasty: but there were still friends enough of the old system to provide materials for further enterprizes, though not for beneficial ones; and the queen, who would deserve our praise, if her judgment and moral prudence had equalled her spirit, perseverance, and love of power, sailed in the spring of 1462 to France, and raised there, from adventurers that in every country were wanting employment, a small army, under sir Piers de Bracy, a Breton knight of some name, with which, in October, she coasted on to Newcastle and landed. Edward issued proclamations, that all men between sixteen and sixty, should be ready to attend him when called on; and Warwick was sent towards Scotland with 20,000 men³⁰. The country did not rise to aid her as the queen expected; and hearing that Edward was advancing with hasty marches to meet her, she retired to her ships to return to France; a tempest wrecked her, and drowned all her treasure: a fisherman's boat saved her; and with sir Piers, she reached Berwick. Part of her army was thrown on land at Bamborough. Seeing no escape, they burnt their ships in despair, and flying into Holy Island, were pursued and destroyed³¹. A Scottish force joining the queen, she took Alnwick and Bambrough castles, which she committed to the care of Bracy and Somerset; and proceeded through Northumberland and Durham³².

Edward, with his peculiar celerity and decision, embarked two separate bodies at Lynn and Hull, sent lord Montague to raise what men he could in Northumberland, and on the 3d of November, marched himself with his most attached nobles to York. In December 1463, stationing himself at Durham, he besieged Alnwick by lord Kent, Dunstanburgh by lord Worcester, and Bamborough by lord Montague, while Warwick, from Warkworth, rode

Wales by land, and hath sent his navy thither by sea. And, madam, think verily we shall not sooner be delivered but that we will come straight to you, without death take us by the way; the which we trust he will not, till we

see the king and you peaceably again in your realm.' 1 Fenn, 249.

³⁰ 1 Fenn, 263—9. Hearne's Frag. 290.

³¹ Hearne's Frag. 291. W. Wyr. 494.

³² Hall, 259.

BOOK

II.

1461.

rode every day to superintend all the sieges³³. Somerset now thought Edward so firm on the throne, that he offered to surrender Bamborough castle, if admitted to the king's grace³⁴. This was wisely granted; and Somerset, whose family had been the bitterest enemies of the house of York, was now seen fighting, with his new friends, against those for whom his father had sacrificed his life³⁵. To the other lords who could not regain their lands, as Pembroke and Ross, a safe conduct was given for their return to Scotland³⁶.

Sir Piers Bracy soon appeared from that country with a considerable Scottish army to relieve Alnwick. The earl of Warwick, who commanded the siege with Somerset and Worcester, perceiving their numbers to be inferior to their opponents, took a station in a field between the castle and a marsh. If the Scots had been bold enough, they might have destroyed the English, but their attack was not sufficiently vigorous, and failed. Somerset exerted himself manfully, in animating the English to maintain their camp. Edward was so gratified by his valor, that he gave him, every week, twenty marcs for his expences, and maintained his retinue. Alnwick surrendered. A truce was made between England and France³⁷.

In April, the queen sailed, with her son and remaining friends, to Sluys in Flanders and went to the duke of Burgundy at Lisle, and earnestly implored his aid to regain her throne. He supplied her with money for her expences; and from thence she went to her father in Lorraine, who gave her a castle for her present residence, while she waited the issue of the course of things³⁸.

The victories of Edward, the popularity of his government, the parliamentary settlement, and his three years possession, would lead us to expect his continued enjoyment of a tranquil reign; and yet, its fourth year, 1464, was so disturbed with insurrections, that

³³ 1 Fenn, 275.³⁴ 2 Lel. 499.³⁸ Ib. 497. It is before this voyage that³⁵ W. Wyr. 495. ² Lel. 499. Hall, 256.

I would place the incident mentioned in the following note, 50, p. 307.

³⁶ W. Wyr. 496.³⁷ Ib.

that in February, the parliament was informed, that he could not attend it for the traiterous commotions in divers parts, especially at Gloucester³⁹; and it was therefore prorogued to the 5th of May; when it was again announced, that the king could not be there from the conspiracies that were prosecuting against him⁴⁰. In March we find, that there were in hostile movement, in Lancashire and Cheshire, above ten thousand men⁴¹: and in April, the queen with her husband, were encouraged to make the serious invasion, that lead to the battle of Hexham. On the 11th of May, Edward found the hostilities so formidable, that he issued orders for all his subjects to arm⁴².

A passage in the monk of Croyland induces the supposition, that the church establishment, or a considerable proportion of it, was now in a state of enmity against him. It has been remarked before, that they contributed greatly to enthrone him⁴³, and the pope had felicitated him on his coronation⁴⁴. Yet now we find, that in 1465, "Many bishops and abbots were accused to the king, because, by letters and by money, they had secretly solicited Margaret, then abroad, to invade him, promising counsel and aid⁴⁵." It is probable that after Edward was fully seated on the throne, the church found the reforming principles to spread under the new dynasty; and that the nobility and gentry, who had favored it, were influencing him against their temporalities. Henry and Margaret were more natural supporters of their old immunities and wealth, than the new interests, feelings, and connections of the house of York. Hence, discerning their danger from the revolution they had patronized, and whose progress tended to involve themselves, they attempted to overturn it.

Edward's

³⁹ Parl. Rolls, 5, p. 499.

⁴⁰ Parl. Rolls, p. 500. The parliament was therefore prorogued to 20th November, to meet at York; and then to 21st January, 1465, to assemble at Westminster. Ib.

⁴¹ 1 Fenn, 287.

⁴² 11 Rym. 524.

⁴³ See before, p. 295.

⁴⁴ The letter of Pius II. is dated 11 kal. Apr. 1462. 11 Rym. 235.

⁴⁵ Hist. Croyl. 539.

BOOK

II.

1464.

1464, April
25.
Battle of
Hegeley
Moor.

Battle of
Hexham,
8 May, 1464.

Edward's general policy was immediate vigor, followed by pardon to those who would submit⁴⁶. But the forces which the queen had obtained from Scotland, presented chances of success which overcame the new loyalty and plighted honor of Somerset: and he suddenly departed from Edward, by private ways out of North Wales to Northumberland; and there possessed himself of the three castles of Bamborough, Dunstanborough and Alnwick, and raised the standard of revolt in favor of Henry⁴⁷.

The queen traversed the north of England with her Scottish army, plundering and ravaging her enemies. Edward sent lord Montague, the brother of Warwick, with the advance of his forces, who met a large division of her army, under lord Hungerford, at Hegeley Moor. These gave way as he attacked; and sir Ralph Piercy, who had also been reconciled to Edward, but revolted, fell there, exclaiming as he expired, with an allusion of his loyalty to Henry, but with a forgetfulness of his sworn submission and abandoned allegiance to Edward; "I have saved the bird in my bosom"⁴⁸.

Montague pressed vigorously his pursuit, and reached the queen's collected strength near Hexham; emboldened by the presence of Henry, and aware that all their prospects of his restoration depended on the event of the now approaching conflict. It was fiercely and obstinately contested, though the opposing armies do not seem to have been numerous. But the conduct and bravery of Montague prevailed. By a well-directed charge he pierced the battle of the Lancastrians, and broke up their array⁴⁹. In their flight

⁴⁶ The Parl. Roll, p. 511, states instances of his forgiveness.

⁴⁷ The act attainting him states, that he had been received into Edward's grace 'by his pretended humbleness, meekness, and lowly suit; and that he had been bounteously and largely treated, 'to the intent that thereby, of very gentleness, and the noble honor that ought to be grounded in every gentleman, he should have been established in firm faith

and truth' to Edward, who had caused him to be restored to his state and dignity. Ib. 511. One chronicle intimates, that he was not paid the appointments given him by Edward. 2 Lel. 499.

⁴⁸ Hall, 260. Hall states these events with some confusion as to the time. I take the data from the Parliamentary Record, 510—512.

⁴⁹ Hall, 260. W. Wyrcestre makes the force of Montague but 4,000 men. p. 498.

flight Somerset was taken, and immediately beheaded: the third duke of the line that had fallen by a violent death since Henry's accession. On the next day, lords Ross and Hungerford were found in a wood, and suffered the same fate, with others. The king met Montague at York, and creating him earl of Northumberland, gave him all the estates and honors which the possessors of that title had enjoyed⁵⁰.

Henry had retired into Lancashire in disguise. A monk betrayed his retreat, and in July he was taken, at dinner, in Waddington Hall, by some deception. He escaped for a while into an adjoining wood, but was there again found, and brought towards London. Warwick met him at Islington, and had the cruelty to subject his former sovereign—a man so personally unoffending to any, and now so interesting to all, from the great mutation of his high estate—to the indignity of having his legs bound with leather straps to the stirrups of the horse. In this degraded state—a vain appeal to every good sympathy of his now insulting subjects, he was lead through Cheap and Cornhill to the Tower⁵¹, where he remained for the next five years⁵², happier for his degradation. The few remaining friends of his family found safety where they could. His queen obtained an asylum on the continent with her father. The young duke of Somerset, and his brother, sailed to Flanders, and lived there in great misery, like duke Exeter, till a foreign country at last allowed them a small pension. Jasper, the earl of Pembroke, went from county to county, no where finding safety,

⁵⁰ W. Wyr. 498, 9. The incidents mentioned, but not dated, by Monstrelet, of the queen's being plundered by robbers, in her flight in a forest; of her escaping, during their quarrel about the booty, with her son, into the wood: of another depredator there suddenly meeting her; of her advancing to him with courageous despair, and saying to him, 'Take him; my friend; save the son of thy king;' and of the man's being so impressed by her noble spirit, as to conduct her safely to the sea-shore, whence she escaped to Sluys in

Flanders, are usually connected with the battle of Hexham. But they rather suit the period mentioned before, p. 304. Monstrelet adds, that Henry, at this time, retired into Wales. V. 10, p. 125. Johnes has inserted 'the forest of Hainault,' in his translation; but the French of my edition of Monstrelet is, 'une forest en Angleterre.' T. 3, p. 64.

⁵¹ Ib. 504. Hearne's Frag. 292. 2 Lel. 500. Fab. 495. Hall, 261.

⁵² Till the 18th October, 1469. Hearne's Frag. 292.

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safety, comfort, or support⁵³. The hearts, as well as the power and law of the country, were now with Edward; and he proceeded to establish those measures which his own permanent safety, and the welfare of the country, most required.

He rewarded liberally, out of the forfeited estates of his adversaries, all those who had faithfully served him; and adopted a kindness and familiarity in his manners towards all classes of his subjects, which rivetted their attachment⁵⁴. He made new coins⁵⁵, altered others⁵⁶; and for temporary purposes, he, with questionable policy, raised their value, and the price of gold and silver⁵⁷. The wisdom or ultimate effects of these operations on the coin, we cannot now estimate; they were probably of advantage only for a time to his exchequer. A contemporary observed, that they were greatly to the disadvantage of the nobles⁵⁸. This remark creates a doubt, if they could have been of general benefit. But his most distinguished action, which few minds have the generous magnanimity and wisdom to practise, was the proclamation of a general amnesty, to all who would submit⁵⁹. This judicious clemency endeared him to the great body of the people, and he lived to feel the value and efficacy of their steady attachment. The heart blesses the voice of mercy.

Edward's
private marriage.

This popularity was not diminished by his peculiar marriage, though that was destined, like Henry's, to put his crown in jeopardy, and for a time to produce his dethronement, and ultimately to bring destruction

⁵³ Comines informs us, 'Some of these were reduced to such extremity and want, before the duke of Burgundy received them, that no common beggar could have been in greater. I saw the duke of Exeter, barefoot and barelegged, begging his bread from door to door. There were also some of the Somerset, and others. 1, p. 239, 240.

⁵⁴ Hall, 262.

⁵⁵ These were royals and nobles. He made the royal of gold of the value of 10 s. and the half royal 5 s. Hearne's Frag. 294. Hall, 262.

⁵⁶ The old noble, which was 6 s. 8 d. he

raised to 8 s. 4 d. (W. Wyr. 500) and called it an angel. Hearne's Frag. 294. This author seems to mistake its new price; but adds, that he made the groat, the half groat, and pence, of less value, by 8 d. in the ounce, than the old ones were. p. 294.

⁵⁷ 'Fine gold was enhanced to 40 s. the ounce, and other base gold after this rate.' Hearne's Frag. 294. Silver also 'was heightened.' Fab. 495.

⁵⁸ 'Ad summum dampnum magnatum regni.' W. Wyr. 500.

⁵⁹ Hall, 262.

destruction on his sons. Several matches had been speculated for him. The princess of Scotland, the king of Castile's daughter, and lady Bona, of Savoy, have been mentioned as projects of this sort; but it seems an error to state, that any were formally applied for⁶⁰. The opinion which he chose to circulate, and which the old chronicler, who was then alive, has transmitted to us, was, that he found no convenient match out of his realm, because no foreign prince was inclined, in his then state of affairs, and as Henry was alive, to form an alliance with him⁶¹. We shall see in the reign of Richard III., that this asserted disinclination of the foreign powers, at least as to Spain, was not strictly true. The fact was, that Edward was rather disposed to be the easy gentleman than the king of state; and made his own feelings too exclusively his guide, without duly adverting to the expediencies of his high station, and the consequences of his actions. He met, by accident, in April 1464, while watching the rebellions which her relations abetted, the widow of sir John Grey, who had perished against his own friends at the second battle of St. Albans. He was hunting near Stoney Stratford, and alighted for refreshment at the duchess of Bedford's. She had married sir Richard Woodville, whom we have already noticed as lord Rivers. Lady Elizabeth Grey was their daughter, and was then with her. It was a favorable opportunity to petition him for a restoration of some of sir John's confiscated possessions, and she knelt before him as a petitioner. Her person, her manner, her voice, her modesty, her lovely smile, and graceful movement, arrested his attention and affected his heart. He beheld her with the eyes of love and admiration⁶². The new feeling exactly coincided with his wishes for a queen; she was too virtuous to be seduced, and too interesting to be forgotten; and after various visits, early in the morning, on the 1st of May 1464⁶³, by a private

⁶⁰ Hall mentions all these; 262, 263; and sends Warwick to Spain, as others do to France. But the contemporary Fragment denies that Warwick went there; 292.

⁶¹ Hearne's Frag. 292.

⁶² Hall, 264.

⁶³ The Fragment misdates the year 1463; it was 1464. Only her mother, two gentlewomen, a priest, and a boy, were present. Fab. 495.

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a private marriage, he made her his queen. It was for some time kept a careful secret. He felt its perilous consequences at the time, but would not refrain from the self indulgence. He had, therefore, both the gratification and the consequential sufferings.

But at Michaelmas the king avowed it; and she was presented, by the dukes of Clarence and Warwick, to the lords and people at Reading, as their queen. In December, lands to the annual value of 4,000 marks were settled upon her: and on the Ascension-day, in the following year, the king made thirty-eight knights at the Tower of London, preparatory to her coronation. The lord mayor, aldermen, and citizens, rode beyond Shooter's hill to meet and conduct her to the king. Soon afterwards she rode in a horse litter, with the new knights, through Cheapside to Westminster. On the following Sunday she was crowned, and tournaments were held on the occasion, at which lord Stanley won the ring and ruby⁶⁴.

Consequences
of this marriage.

From the time of the avowal of this marriage, a new political revolution began to be formed in England, dividing Edward from the nobles, who had been so steadily his father's friends, and to whom he chiefly owed his royal dignity. The causes of this change there is no difficulty in tracing.

The power of the landed aristocracy was now so great as to be dangerous to the crown, whenever the administration became, or by misrepresentation could be made, to be unpopular. It had already overturned Suffolk, the Somersets, and the queen's government; and was proudly and jealously watching Edward, whose gratitude to Warwick, and other supporters, had increased their means of influence and authority, by the honors and possessions he had given them.

That

⁶⁴ W. Wyr. 500—3. About this time, a curious passage occurs in our old chronicler, Hall. Edward granted license 'for certain Cotswold sheep to be transported to Spain, as people report, which have there so multiplied and increased, that it hath turned the commo-

dity of England much to the Spanish profit, and to no small hinderance of the gain which was beforetimes in England raised of wool.' p. 266. Has the late Merino breed, introduced into this country and France from Spain, proceeded from these?

That Edward felt himself to be a king made so by others, and governed by his makers, or was led to perceive it by his queen, whose education had been among their opponents, and whose feelings were not soothed by their displeasure at her selection, may be inferred, from the speed with which he endeavored to create a new nobility out of her family, or connected with it, that might counteract the dominant aristocracy whose power he had experienced, whose jealousies he saw, and of whose continuing fidelity he was never certain. In March 1466, he displaced lord Mountjoy, to make his queen's father the lord treasurer: a change which displeased greatly the irritable Warwick, and other expecting lords⁶⁵. In September and October, he married her former son Thomas Grey, to the heiress of the duke of Exeter, his own niece, whom Warwick had destined for his nephew; another excitement of this peer's resentful sensibility⁶⁶: and her sister Maria to the heir of lord Herbert, to the further dissatisfaction of his ancient nobles⁶⁷. Another sister was wedded to the duke of Buckingham, with equal vexation to Warwick; and another to the heir of the earl Arundel; and two others to the families of the lords Essex and Kent⁶⁸. John, another brother, whom he had made knight of the Bath, was matched with the old duchess of Norfolk⁶⁹: and to the queen's brother Anthony⁷⁰, the heiress of lord Scales was united, and his title given.

Thus

⁶⁵ W. Wyr. 506. He was also made grand constable, on Worcester's death or resignation. Rym. Fed. 11, p. 581.

⁶⁶ W. Wyr. 507.

⁶⁷ Ib. 506.

⁶⁸ Ib. and 501. Hall, 264, 5. Cal. Rot. Pet. p. 312. Lord Mautravers, the husband of one of the queen's sisters, was made warden and keeper of the New Forest, and Lyndhurst. Cal. Rot. 312. Sir Thomas Vaughan, another relation, was appointed treasurer of the king's chamber, and master of his jewels. p. 311.

⁶⁹ W. Wyr. 501.

⁷⁰ This nobleman, the future lord Rivers, became distinguished for his chivalric at-

tainments. He gave a specimen of his knightly dexterity, when the illegitimate son of the duke of Burgundy came to London, to make overtures for the duke's eldest son's marriage, with Edward's sister. Their encounter at a tournament in Smithfield is thus described. On the first day, 'They ran together certain courses with sharp spears, and so departed with equal honor. The next day they entered the field, the bastard sitting on a bay courser, being somewhat dim of sight, and the lord Scales had a gray courser, on whose schaf-fron was a long and a sharp pike of steel. When these two valiant persons coped together at the tournay, the lord Scale's horse,

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Thus all the great estates and titles, which the noblest families desired to be allied with, were bestowed on the queen's family, with a rapidity which alarmed as much as it disappointed. If the motive could be doubted, the effects were unquestionable. These marriages threw the ancient nobility into the back ground, and brought forward a new set of individuals, to take from them their power, influence, honors, and emoluments. The chroniclers of the time announce both this result, and the discontent it excited⁷¹; and Warwick's indignation was raised to its height, when the king, understanding that he was favoring a marriage between his eldest daughter, and Clarence the brother of Edward, expressed his disapprobation⁷², and endeavored to prevent it. That the king should take the chancellor's seals from his brother⁷³, and marry his own sister Margaret to the presumptive duke

horse, by chance or by custom, thrust his pike into the nostrils of the horse of the bastard, so that, for very pain, he mounted so high, that he fell on one side with his master; and the lord Scales rode round about him, with his sword shaking in his hand, till the king commanded the marshall to help up the bastard, which openly said, 'I cannot hold by the clouds; but though my horse failed me, surely I will not fail my counter-companions.' And when he was remounted, he made a countenance to assail his adversary; but the king, either favoring his brother's honor then gotten, or mistrusting the shame which might come to the bastard, if he were again foiled, caused the heralds to cry a lostel, and every man to depart. The morrow after, the two noblemen came into the field on foot, with two poleaxes, and there fought valiantly like two courageous champions; but at the last, the point of the axe of the lord Scales happened to enter into the sight of the helm of the bastard, and by pure force he might have plucked him on his knees, when the king suddenly cast down his warder, and then the marshalls them severed. The bastard, not content with this chance, very desirous to be avenged, trusting on his cunning at the poleaxe, (the

which feat he had greatly exercised, and therein had a great experiment,) required the king, of justice, that he might perform his enterprize: the lord Scales not refused it. The king said he would ask counsel, and so called to him the constable and marshall, with the officers of arms. After long consultation had, and laws of arms rehearsed, it was declared to the bastard, for a sentence definitive, by the duke of Clarence, then constable of England, and the duke of Norfolk, earl marshall, that if he would prosecute farther this attempted challenge, he must, by the law of arms, be delivered to his adversary in the same case, and like condition, as he was when he was taken from him; that is to say, the point of the lord Scales' axe to be fixed in the sight of his helm, as deep as it was when they were severed. The bastard, hearing this judgment, doubted much the sequel, if he should so proceed again. Wherefore he was content to relinquish his challenge.' Hall, p. 268. Similar combats followed.

⁷¹ W. Wyr. 506, 7. Hist. Croyl. 542.

⁷² W. Wyr. 511. Hearne's Frag. 300.

⁷³ W. Wyr. 508, compared with Parl. Rolls, 572 and 622.

duke of Burgundy, to whose politics Warwick was opposed, against the advice and intreaties of this affronted nobleman⁷⁴, whose counsels he had before thwarted in the choice of his own queen, destroyed all the remaining attachment that this formidable earl had preserved for the son of his ancient friend, and made him anxious to throw down the royal idol, that he believed his exertions had set up, and could as easily demolish⁷⁵. The first emotions of his displeasure appeared to be soothed by a temporary reconciliation, in 1468⁷⁶: but as all the causes of his mental exacerbation continued to exist, no pacification could last.

At this time it is remarked, by an author living at that period⁷⁷, that none before Warwick had, in England, half the possessions which he then enjoyed. He had the entire earldom of Warwick, all the lands of the Spencers, and the earldom of Salisbury; he was great chamberlain of England, the chief admiral, and the captain

⁷⁴ Croyl. 551. Croyland says, that until this marriage, Warwick had kept on terms with the queen's friends. Hearne's Fragment mentions Warwick's connections with Louis. 296—8.

⁷⁵ It was on the 18th of June, 1468, that Margaret, the lady who became afterwards so celebrated for being the persecuting Juno to Henry VII. the English Æneas, went from St. Paul's to Stratford, on her way to Flanders. As she passed through the city, Warwick rode before her, as if a cordial approver of the match, while a great number of ladies, earls and barons, formed her stately train. The lord mayor presented her with a pair of rich basons, containing 100*l.* in gold. She landed at Sluys, where she was received as their sovereign lady. The people made illuminations, with wax baroches and torches, from every house. Pinnacles of fire, subtilly devised, were set blazing through the town and castle; and every householder stood in the street, outside of his door, with a torch burning in his hand. Rich pageants of Jason and the golden fleece, and of queens Vashti and Esther, were exhibited on a tapestry-

covered stage, near her lodging; and tournaments began, in which the queen's brother Anthony, then lord Scales, won the first prize. Harl. MSS. N^o 543, p. 131. Oliver de la Marche also describes these festivities. She was married to the duke on the 9th July 1468. A singular calamity attended their wedding-night: a fire burst out in the castle where they slept, from which they escaped with difficulty. It was while in the service of this lady, in Flanders, that Caxton learnt the art of printing, then recently discovered.

⁷⁶ W. Wyr. 512, 13.

⁷⁷ This is the author of the Fragment published by Hearne. He says, 'My purpose is, and shall be, as touching the life of Edward IV. to write and shew those and such things which I have heard of his own mouth; and also impart of such things in the which I have been personally present, as well within the royaume as without, during a certain space, more especial from 1468 to 1482.' He also appeals to Thomas duke of Norfolk, treasurer of England, in confirmation of his veracity. Frag. Sprotts. 299.

captain of Calais, and also lieutenant of Ireland: an accumulation of honors and power, which made him inferior only to his sovereign⁷⁸.

The first act of defiance displayed towards Edward, was the marriage of his own daughter with Clarence, the brother of the king. His perseverance in this alliance, which alarmed Edward, discovers to us, perhaps, another cause of Warwick's displeasure against him. The proud earl may have intended his daughter to have been the queen of England; and if so, Edward's preference of an humbler beauty was an incurable wound to his ambition, not likely to be forgiven by his vindictive vanity. That he had a daughter then marriageable, and that he was desirous to ally her with the royal blood, is evident from her nuptials with Clarence. It is therefore probable, that a man of his pride and temper considered Edward's selection of the daughter of sir Richard Woodville, to the neglect of his own, as an unpardonable offence. Edward expressed his displeasure, that the match with Clarence should have been made without his privity. The earl received the rebuke with no humble spirit. Unkind words passed; from that day their former attachment ceased⁷⁹: Edward regarded Warwick with the eye of mistrust⁸⁰; and Warwick soon began to form a conspiracy to dethrone Edward. He solicited his brothers, the marquis Montague, and the archbishop of York, to unite with him. They gave a verbal assent to his plans, but were rather disposed to regret than to encourage them⁸¹. Rebellion, treason, and bloodshed, seemed blameless amusements to the aristocracy of that day, whenever its pride was affronted, or its rapacity disappointed. The sword was unsheathed at every gust of passion; and the calculations of success or failure comprized all that conscience, law, or loyalty then considered. Their religion had a ceremonial

⁷⁸ These possessions, he seems to mean the official situations which Warwick enjoyed, exclusive of his own estates, amounted to 20,000 marks a year. Frag. 300. Comines.

⁷⁹ Frag. 200.

⁸⁰ W. Wyr. 511.

⁸¹ Hall gives the speech of Warwick to them, which we cannot doubt to be an effusion of his own fancy. 269.

ceremonial pliability, which made pardon at all times an easy purchase. The divine forgiveness was made marketable on earth; and this belief released worldly crime from all anxiety as to its future responsibilities. Hence no fears remained, but for the axe, the gibbet, and the confiscation. The moral sympathies could arise only from a better education.

A messenger, with letters from Margaret, was intercepted by lord Herbert, in Wales, and, on his arrest, accused Warwick of treachery to the king, from words which he had heard on the continent. Edward sent the man to earl Warwick to be examined, and the charge was deemed frivolous; but the king appointed to himself a body guard of 200 brave archers, and with these he rode to Coventry. An apparent reconciliation was there made by the archbishop of York, between his brother and the king, and the queen's family; and Edward restored to the prelate some lands that had been resumed⁸².

Ignorant of the storm that was forming against him, Edward met his parliament in June, with a kind and liberal speech. Warwick's brother, the chancellor archbishop, being absent, the king's father-in-law, the earl of Rivers, as treasurer of England, assured the commons of the enjoyment of their liberties and privileges; and then, the sovereign personally addressed them. He declared that he purposed to live upon his own, and not to charge his subjects but in great and urgent cases, concerning more their own weal, and the defence of the kingdom, than his pleasure. For their good wills, kindness, and true hearts, he thanked them as heartily as he could, and added, "I shall be to you a good and gracious king, and reign as right wisely upon you, as ever did any of my progenitors; and shall also, in time of need, apply my person for the weal and defence of you, and of this my realm, not sparing my life or body for any jeopardy that may happen to the same⁸³." A long act of resumption of former royal grants was passed, with numerous exceptions, as usual. On the

⁸² W. Wyr. 513.

⁸³ Parl. Rolls, 572.

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II.

1468.
17 May.

the 11th of July, the parliament was, on account of a beginning pestilence from the heat, adjourned to November. It was then prorogued to the 5th of May, at Reading, from which they adjourned to the 12th of May, at Westminster⁸⁴

When the parliament met, Stillington, the bishop of Bath and Wells, addressed it as chancellor. He drew a strong picture of the state of the kingdom, at the king's accession: "At that time, this land was full naked and barren of justice: the peace not kept, nor laws duly ministered. It was spoiled of the crown of France, the dutchies of Normandy, Gascony, and Guienne, and surrounded on every side with enmity; as with Denmark, Spain, Scotland, and Britany; and also with old and ancient enemies of France⁸⁵." He reminded them, that the king had concluded a perpetual peace with Spain, commercial treaties with Denmark, and Germany, and Naples; and a peace for fifty years with Scotland; and had begun a treaty with the king of Arragon, and an amity with Bretagne; and had married his sister Margaret to the duke of Burgundy. He declared, that his sovereign had done these things as means to a principal intent, which was to minish and lessen the power of his ancient adversary of France. He avowed the king's intention to cross the sea, and subdue his great rebel and adversary, Louis, the usurping king of that country; mentioned the invitations he had received, from both Burgundy and Britany, for that purpose; and called upon parliament for its assistance and co-operation⁸⁶. The commons voted two-fifteenths and two-tenths for his supplies, and confirmed the queen's dower. A petition was presented, to have all robberies of church plate, crosses, silk ornaments, and jewels, and of sepulchres, which was ascribed to lollards and heretics, declared high treason: but the king wisely gave his qualifying negative to a proposition so outrageous⁸⁷. It is probable, that Edward had now become sensible, that the minds of his nobility were assuming a warlike port, and that

⁸⁴ Parl. Rolls, 618, 19.

⁸⁵ Ib. 622.

⁸⁶ Ib. 623.

⁸⁷ Ib. 632.

that it would be prudent to occupy them in a foreign warfare. But to plunge another country into the miseries of an invasion, for his own security, is an act of selful immorality, which never prospers to the individual who attempts it. Its fruits to Henry V. had been, the shortening of his own life, and the deposition of his son. But France was saved from the calamity, by the backwardness of the English aristocracy, and by the counteracting plans of Warwick and his confederates. An order was made in July 1468, to raise troops for the defence of the kingdom⁸⁸: but they were not employed abroad. Louis XI. was a politic sovereign, and took every measure that his sagacity could devise to avert an attack, which, though it might not have atchieved the conquest of France, would have filled it with bloodshed and misery. Lord Scales was preparing, in October, to sail with a force to Bretagne, when the news arrived that the duke had been induced to make a truce with Louis, who at the same time conciliated Burgundy⁸⁹. This wise conduct paralyzed the arm of English hostility.

Margaret lay a while with a small fleet at Harfleur, threatening to invade Edward, and lord Scales was dispatched with a fleet of Genoese gallies, and English ships, with 5,000 men, to intercept her. The queen was too wise to risque the attempt, and Scales returned to the Isle of Wight at the end of November, with the noiseless honor of having prevented the attack⁹⁰.

But Jasper, earl of Pembroke, had been active for Henry, his maternal brother. A few French ships had conveyed him to North Wales, in June: and his Welsh friends joined him in sufficient numbers to enable him to besiege and take Denbigh; but he was defeated by lord Herbert's brother, who took the castle of Hardborough, his strong hold, for which exploit the king created Herbert earl of Pembroke⁹¹.

1468. Oct.

⁸⁸ Dated 3 July 1468. Rym. Fed. 11, 624. Ab. 237.

⁸⁹ W. Wyr. 518.

⁹⁰ Ib. 519.

⁹¹ Ib. 516, 17.

HISTORY

OF

ENGLAND.

CHAP. II.

WARWICK'S CONSPIRACIES AGAINST EDWARD. ROBIN OF
REDESDALE'S INSURRECTION. BATTLE OF HEDGECOTE
FIELD. EDWARD'S CAPTURE AND ESCAPE. BATTLE OF
LOSE-COAT FIELD. WARWICK'S FLIGHT. NEGOTIATIONS
WITH MARGARET. RETURN. EDWARD QUITS ENGLAND.

BOOK
II.

1469.

THE effects of Warwick's secret conspiracies with Clarence, his own brother Montague, and the discontented nobility and gentry, began now to appear. He did not commit himself immediately by open hostilities. His agents were employed to foment sedition in the country, and a vast popular insurrection arose in the summer of 1469, in the north of England. Sixty thousand men, appointing one whom they called Robin of Redesdale, their captain, appeared in arms¹; and dispersing papers, specifying the causes of their assembling, began their march to London².

These articles imply, that the insurrection was not so much directed against the king, as against the new nobility he had raised;

¹ Hist. Croyl. 542.

² Our old chronicler, John Stowe, has left us in MSS. (not inserted in his history) a copy of Robin's 'Articles and Causes;' and has

added to their title, 'which were devised by the duke of Clarence, earl Warwick, and lords Willoughby and Welles, before the field of Lincoln.' Harl. MSS. N° 543.

raised³; and also, that it was countenanced by the church. For the second article complains of Edward's expenditure of its property; and the others are directed against the family of the queen. Their petitioning clauses, though violent against these, are couched in language respectful to the king⁴. The whole paper contains nothing to shew, that it was a Lancastrian rebellion. It is probable, that if the insurgents had succeeded in destroying the queen's family, without Warwick's being discovered to be their secret mover to this end, he would not have projected the restoration of Henry.

Edward, with his habitual promptness and determination, on all great emergencies, went to Norwich, and through Bury, Walsingham, and Lynn, to Croyland, to explore in person the danger, and to provide the means of surmounting it. He proceeded thence to his castle at Fotheringay, where he stayed with his queen a few days, awaiting the arrival of his military succors; while her father and brothers withdrew in alarm to their castles. He marched the forces he could assemble to Newark, but finding that the insurgents trebled his number, and that his friends were backward to assist him, he retreated to Nottingham castle, that Herbert, earl of Pembroke, might join him from Wales, before he took the field against the rebels⁵. Pembroke hastened to meet him with 7 or 8,000 men; but was intercepted in his line of march by a great host of the insurgents, in the field of Hedgecote, near Banbury,

³ These articles were, in substance :
 ' That the king had been too lavish of gifts to the queen's relations, and some others; that through them he had spent church monies, without repayment; that they had caused him to diminish his household, and charge the commons with great impositions; that they would not suffer the king's laws to be executed, but through them; and that they had caused him to estrange the true lords of his blood from his secret council.' Harl. MSS. ib.

⁴ These were, that the queen's relations,

and the others named, who are called seditious persons, might be punished; and that it would ' like him for ever to be contained by the advice of the lords spiritual and temporal; and by their authority to ordain and appoint his possessions; and that, if any but his issue and brethren should presume to take any of his livelihood, they should be punished.' They also required, that the revenue of tonnage and poundage should be employed in keeping the sea.

⁵ Hist. Croyl. 542.

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II.

1469.

Battle of
Hedgecote
field.

Banbury, in Wiltshire⁶ Lord Stafford had, at the same time, raised 5,000 from Somerset and Devon. These two commanders reconnoitred the northern forces, who were passing towards Northampton. The insurgents repulsed them; and then, waiting for Warwick and Clarence, encamped on a hill near Banbury. Herbert and Stafford prepared to attack them, but unfortunately for Edward, quarrelling about their lodgings at an inn, Stafford marched off the field with his archers, and left Herbert to bear the brunt of the battle, without their protecting and assisting arm of war. The result was fatal. Though he distinguished himself as a hardy knight and expert captain, and his brother with his pole-axe twice cut through the line of his opponents, they were surrounded, overpowered, and taken; and with the usual cruelty of that age, were beheaded the next day⁷. This victory put the whole kingdom for the time into the power of the northern revolvers, and of their secret advisers⁸. They spread themselves around, and some of the peasantry joining, surprized lord Rivers, the queen's father, and her brother John, in their residence at Grafton, and destroyed them⁹. Stafford was soon after taken, and suffered. This disaster completed the disaffection to the king; and those who had even joined him, clandestinely left him by thousands¹⁰.

Warwick and his friends now assembled their forces, and marched towards the king. His indignation was extreme at finding himself their prisoner; but he had no means of either resisting or resenting. He was taken at a village near Coventry, and brought to Warwick, all his servants having been dismissed. He was taken thence to Middleham castle, but the confederated nobles soon found themselves embarrassed with their illustrious captive¹¹.

Warwick

⁶ Hist. Croyl. 542, 3.

⁷ Hearne's Frag. 301. Hall, 273, 4. Fifteen hundred of the northerns were killed. Itiner. W. Wyr. p. 122.

⁸ Four thousand Welsh fell; and Pembroke, and other nobles and gentry, were taken, who, by Warwick's secret orders, were

beheaded at Northampton. Croyl. 543. It was Pembroke's eldest son who had married one of the queen's sisters; and he himself took a great lead in the royal councils. Contin. Croyl. 551.

⁹ Ib. 551.

¹⁰ Ib. 543.

¹¹ Ib. 551.

Warwick had drawn the northern insurgents back over the Trent¹. They had accomplished his object, in the destruction of part of the queen's family: and the king himself was in his power. But his successes only placed him between two evils; the enmity of those who still liked their king, and the attack of Henry's friends. This dilemma speedily involved him, for sir Humphrey Neville, conceiving from these disturbances, the hope of reviving the old king's party, collected all its adherents about the marches of Scotland. Warwick found that his detention of the king was not popular, and that no military men would move until he was released. The earl's brother, the archbishop of York, to whose custody the king was consigned, still more willingly concurring, Edward was liberated or allowed to escape. The Lancastrians were defeated by Warwick¹³; and his renewed reconciliation with his sovereign appeared in his appointment in August, to be grand justiciary or commander of Wales, and constable of Cardigan, in addition to his other dignities¹⁴.

The Christmas of 1469, seemed to have ended all hostilities between these two Yorkist parties. But how could the king forget the destruction of his wife's father and brother, his own captivity, and his still precarious power; or Warwick lose the remembrance, that by such transactions he had precluded all future confidence? There might be peace, but there could not be friendship—and if no friendship, his safety would not survive his power. He had made it impossible for his sovereign and himself to co-exist. Yet he had found, that his own faction was too weak to root up Edward; nor would he gain any advantage, as once seemed to have passed over his mind, by setting up Clarence, because this prince's character was far inferior to his brother's. It remained then only to lead a suspected, depreciated, and endangered life, or to combine

The king escapes, and is reconciled to Warwick.

¹² Croyl. 543. This author says, he was writing this article in the 9th year of Edward, or between March 1469 and March 1470. P. 545.

¹³ Cont. Croyl. 552, 3.

¹⁴ 11 Rym. 647.

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1469.

combine heartily with the Lancastrian interest, and to restore Henry to the throne. This might be done, especially if the church assisted. To effect this change, Warwick next lent all his politics and power; and the years 1470 and 1471 were distinguished by these extraordinary revolutions, which in other times have turned a Dionysius into a pedagogue, James II. into an exile, and Napoleon Bonaparte into an insulated prisoner.

1470.

On the Shrove-Tuesday of this year, the king met his brother Clarence at their mother's¹⁵, and a fraternal reconciliation ensued under her parental eye. Warwick took leave, to retire to his ancestral castle¹⁶; and Edward had that confidence in their fidelity, that when tidings arrived of an insurrection in Linconshire, he issued a commission to them both, on March the 7th, to levy troops against the rebels¹⁷. It was the son of lord Welles whom he had recently beheaded for alleged treason, that commanded the revolt. But the king gave them no time to gather strength: and on March the 12th, without waiting for Warwick, he attacked them with that energy which he always displayed in battle, and so totally defeated them, that they threw away their coats of armor to escape more quickly from his sword; and this circumstance gave a popular name to the field of battle, which took place at Empyngham in Rutlandshire¹⁸. This anticipating attack was at that time his safety, for Warwick and Clarence were soon on the full march towards him, but rather to have joined Welles, than to have assisted the king. After his victory, Edward proceeded to Grantham; and finding, on March the 20th, that they were advancing, he took the field to meet them, and mustered his people. But as he approached, they discovered their real feelings and intentions to have been hostile, by retreating to Manchester

12 March.
Battle of
Lose-coat
field.

Warwick
resumes hos-
tilities.

¹⁵ Fab. 500.

¹⁶ Ib. Croyl. 552.

¹⁷ 11 Rym. 652. The act passed the 31st of March, states, that the king, trusting they would have aided him in subduing the insur-

rections in Lincoln, as they had promised, had authorized them to assemble forces, and bring them to him. Parl. Rolls, 6, p. 233.

¹⁸ Parl. Rolls, 6, p. 144. Hearne's Frag. 302. Croyl. 553.

Manchester in alarm, lest their treachery should have been known. They solicited lord Stanley to join them¹⁹, but he refused, and they turned into the west countries, sending proclamations to York, to excite the people against him. Edward reached this city, and created Percy, earl of Northumberland, and Montague, Warwick's brother, a marquis. Indignant at their perfidy, and from want of provisions unable to follow them immediately, he issued orders from York to arrest them²⁰; and commanding his officers to array the counties against them²¹, he gave them till March the 28th to come in and receive his pardon. The time elapsing without submission, on March the 31st, being at Nottingham, he proclaimed them to be traitors²²; and went himself to Exeter in pursuit, and directed the earl of Kent to marshal the force of Devon and Cornwall to destroy them²³.

Warwick's brother, the archbishop of York, now attempted to entrap Edward into their power. The king still believed that he and Montague had no share in the treasons of their brother; and when the prelate invited him to a banquet at his mansion of the Moor, near Langley, Edward made the visit in a friendly manner. As they were about to wash their hands before supper, a gentleman, who was afterwards created lord Fitzwalter, privately approached the king, and whispered him to be on his guard, for that one hundred men at arms were ordered to seize and carry him off. The king, with great self-command, continued his friendly converse, and pretended an occasion to retire. As it was not suspected that he knew of any sinister plot, this was permitted: and he immediately caused a good horse to be saddled, without any of his enemies being aware of it, and rode off immediately to Windsor²⁴.

King nearly
taken priso-
ner again.

Their

¹⁹ 2 Fenn, 37, 9. The act of 31 March 1470, charges Warwick with having treacherously excited Welles to his insurrection. Parl. Rolls, p. 233.

Parl. Rolls, 233. Rym. 11, p. 654.
2 Fenn, 39.

²¹ Cal. Rot. 315. Rym. 11, p. 655.

²² Parl. Rolls, 6, p. 203.

²³ Rym. 11, p. 656.

²⁴ Hearne's Frag. 302. It places the incident after Easter, as we have inserted it.

BOOK

II.

1470.

Clarence and
Warwick fly
to France.

Warwick's
negotiation
with queen
Margaret.

Their last hope thus disappointed, Clarence and Warwick prepared to leave the kingdom; in their way they had taken lord Scales and lord Audley, and with the unpardoning ferocity of the age, sent them to be beheaded, when a Dorsetshire gentleman met and released them²⁵. The fugitive peers went to Calais, but being refused admission by its governor²⁶, were landed in May, at Honfleur. The admiral of France welcomed their arrival, and they proceeded to Tours, to interest Louis XI. in their favor²⁷, while some adherents, attempting to join them in the Easter-week from Southampton, were arrested and executed²⁸.

Warwick had been ambassador to France in 1467, and Louis XI. with great sagacity, had by the most flattering attentions and presents, converted him into a friend²⁹. Warwick had many secret counsellings with him³⁰; and from that time maintained with him a constant private correspondence³¹. Louis, who dreaded Edward's military abilities, and knew that he had publicly urged a descent on France, entered earnestly into Warwick's plans; and sought to effect a reconciliation between the earl and the queen, without which, nothing effectual against Edward could be prosecuted. Warwick returned to Normandy, while Louis conducted this negotiation, which he experienced to be a difficulty³². Margaret was unfortunate—an exile; and had seen all her hopes blossom but to wither: yet she was resentful, high-minded, and resolute. Warwick had dethroned her, and she could neither forgive nor trust him, nor be hereafter governed by him. He required as the

²⁵ Hearne's Frag. 305.

²⁶ 1 Comines, 245. The duchess of Clarence was brought to bed of a son in the ship. Ib.

²⁷ Hearne's Frag. 303.

²⁸ Fab. 500.

²⁹ Hearne's Frag. 296—8. ³⁰ Ib. 299.

³¹ 1 Comines, 241.

³² I am indebted for the account of this to the extracts which John Stowe has left us,

taken out of the MSS. of some person of eminence in these times; but which, we may presume, came to his knowledge after he had composed his Chronicle, as they form no part of it. In two passages, the author speaks as if living at the period about which he writes. Stowe's extracts are in the Harl. MSS. N° 543. They are intitled, 'Manner and guiding of the earl of Warwick at Angiers, from 15 July to 4 August, on which day he departed from Angiers.'

the conditions of his alliance and support, a complete pardon; that her only son Edward, should marry his second daughter Ann; and a puissant force to England, with her authority. Louis sent for Margaret to Angiers, and urged her to comply with Warwick's terms. But she surprized him by steadily objecting to the very first article. She said, that consistently with her own or her son's honor she might not, and could not, pardon the man who had been the greatest cause of the fall of king Henry and herself; and that from her own heart, she never could be contented with him nor forgive him. To his second request, she answered, that it would be prejudicial to her interests to take party with him: that she had still many friends, whom she would lose by such a treaty; and therefore, she besought the king, that it would please him to leave off from speaking any further of the proposed pardon, amity, or alliance³³. There was a consistency of principle in this refusal, which though flowing perhaps from haughty and resentful feelings, yet exhibits that lofty superiority to the baser attractions of selfish interest, which always confers honor and compels respect. Margaret was never greater on her throne than in disdaining these advances of Warwick.

These unexpected answers were conveyed to the mortified earl; but severe necessity was humbling him; and he confessed he had deserved them: but suggested, in his own justification, that she and the king, by false counsel had endeavored to destroy him and his friends without cause. He urged that for the great evil will which they had shown him, he had a righteous cause to labor for their undoing; and that he had done nothing but what a persecuted and dispossessed nobleman ought to have done. He admitted, that he had been the cause of setting up "the king that now is," but that seeing the evil terms which this prince kept towards him, he would with all his might try to destroy him, and cast him out of the realm: and he asked the king of France to be his surety for his sincerity³⁴.

Louis XI.

³³ Harl. MSS. N° 543, p. 168.

³⁴ Harl. MSS. N° 543.

Louis XI. who despised all feelings but those of personal advantage, and who built his reign on selfish ends and unprincipled policy, willingly offered himself to Margaret as the pledge of the earl's fidelity. He shewed the queen the great love which Warwick had preserved towards himself, and assured her that he had been more bound and beholden to him than to any other man living³⁵: an extraordinary confession of a king of France towards an English chief minister. An heroic mind would have scorned such obligations, but Louis XI. was either ignorant of the grander emotions of the human soul, or deemed them only fit for books of chivalry and romance. The result of his interference was, that after many treaties and meetings, and much resistance, and the persuasions of her father's friends, and the advice of others, the queen was obliged to relent so far as to pardon him and lord Oxford; but declared she would not in any wise consent to the desired marriage. She asserted that it was neither honorable nor expedient to her or to her son; and that she should find a match for him more profitable and more advantageous to a king of England. To convince Louis of this, she produced a letter which she had received from England the preceding week, proposing the plan of a marriage between her son and Edward's eldest daughter³⁶. Louis would not abandon Warwick; and for fifteen days the struggle lasted with the high-spirited queen. At last the importunities of all around her overcame her persevering magnanimity; and a qualified assent to the marriage was extorted from her: but she exacted the throne to be Anne's dowry. The final agreement was, that the lady should be put immediately into the queen's

³⁵ This corresponds with Croyland's account, that the marriage of Edward's sister with the prince, now duke of Burgundy, the great antagonist of Louis, was one of the points that most offended Warwick.

³⁶ The words of the MS. are, 'by the which was offered to her son, *my* lady the princess.' p. 169. There were no princesses

then in England, but Edward's daughters; and of these the eldest only, Elizabeth, could be thought of in such a project as this. The writer expresses himself as if a part of her household; and if so, this was an early plan to unite the houses of York and Lancaster, though by Edward's deposition.

queen's hands, but that the marriage should not be perfected until Warwick had been with an army over sea to England, and had recovered the kingdom, or the greatest part of it, for king Henry. On these terms she reluctantly consented, especially as Warwick assured the French monarch, that he had letters often from England, which promised him that as soon as he landed in it, he should have more than 50,000 fighters at his command. He asked only a few folk, ships, and money, of Louis; and shewed that from his own means, he was providing 2,000 French archers, and provisions for 66,000 persons³⁷.

The duke of Burgundy watched anxiously for Edward all these negotiations, and prepared a fleet at Havre to intercept Warwick as soon as he should sail: and his intelligence was so good that he was enabled to inform his brother-in-law, of the very part at which his enemies intended to land³⁸.

Edward sent a lady of quality secretly to his sister-in-law, the duchess of Clarence, to urge her to solicit the duke not to subvert his own family, for the elevation of the Lancastrians; and not to believe that Warwick intended to make him king, who had now contracted his daughter to the son of Henry. As this lady had been one of the duchess's household, she was admitted to visit her without her object being suspected. Her representations secretly influenced the duke's mind, and he promised to favor the king, when he should be once well settled again on the English shore³⁹.

But although Edward, by the unvaried success and skilful direction and energy of all his military movements, evinced himself to have the greatest talents for war of any prince then in Europe; yet, when not called into the martial field, no sovereign seemed more averse to state, policy, business, fatigue or trouble. His natural

Edward's
delusive
confidence.

³⁷ Harl. MSS. N° 543.

³⁸ 1 Comines, 249. 'The duke of Burgundy was stronger at sea than both Warwick and the king of France; for at Sluys he had

seized upon several great ships belonging to Spain, Portugal, and Genoa, besides many hulks from Germany.' Ib. 246.

³⁹ 1 Comines, 248.

BOOK

II.

1470.

natural temper or habits led him to personal and sensual enjoyments, and into these enervating seductions he invariably sank, as soon as victory allowed him to repose. Though of courage invincible, and with an intellect that evinced the greatest penetration and sagacity in active warfare, the cessation of the conflict terminated his foresight and management: and hunting, hawking, gallantry, dress, and the festive banquet, occupied all his succeeding hours. Being the most beautiful prince then known, his person interested all who beheld him; and he loved the compliments and the sympathies which he excited. He was fond of being surrounded by the female sex. In his summer hunting, he had tents set up for the ladies, in which he treated them with magnificent splendor⁴⁰. Instead of being the Amadis, he chose to become the Don Galaor of the tales he valued; unconquerable in battle, but the most dissolute child of luxury afterward: and this taste made his life an historical romance. His very sense of his own abilities misled him. When Burgundy sent him over an exact account of all Warwick's machinations against him, and his own provision of a fleet to counteract the invasion, Edward was so presumptuously confident of his own security and talents, that he derided the wise measure of intercepting his enemies at sea. He only wished them to be landed⁴¹. There is a folly in vicious conduct which seems like its natural or appointed destiny.

In all state affairs, the confidence of vanity is the temerity of conceited imbecility; and yet Comines, well remarks, that the man who should have then said to him, "Warwick will land, and in eleven days will drive you out, and acquire the supreme power;" would have been justly deemed insane⁴². Disaster might have been predicted from his presumption, but not such instantaneous ruin.

Edward had now reigned long enough to shew the people, that the

⁴⁰ Comines, who knew him, supplies us with these circumstances, and twice mentions his extraordinary beauty, 249, 252.

⁴¹ Com. p. 253.

⁴² Ib.

the largest part of the evils, from the pressure of which they had thrown off their allegiance to Henry, was such as no change of government could remove. New dynasties displace obnoxious men, and put some new principles in action, which may often be beneficial. But the general course and state of society must continue as it was; and even the advantages from a new direction of counsel, are rarely immediate. The people, therefore, often become as ready to quarrel with their revolutionary sovereign, as they had been with their ancient one; and Edward hastened these fluctuations by his effeminate life. This defect divested his name of that commanding veneration which heroic energies, brilliant success, and conceded fame had attached to it; and left him only the reputation of a self-degrading voluptuary, to whom every one that could command his passions, felt himself superior. While he was amusing himself with his unpopular relaxations, in such a time of public disquiet and impending tempest, the ancient nobility, who disdained a Sardanapalus for their king, were sending over earnest invitations to Warwick, to make another invasion, with an assurance of their befriending it.

The earl and Clarence sent before them a letter, addressed "To the worshipful, discreet, and true commons of England," stating their own injuries, the undue predominance and covetousness of unfit and seditious persons who had the royal ear: asserting, that they bore as fervent a zeal, love, and affection for the crown and commonwealth of England, as they ever had; and protesting that they came only to re-establish all good old customs, and to put down falsehood and oppression, and punish their supporters; and to have right and justice indifferently administered, and to redeem the land for ever from the thralldom of all foreign nations⁴³.

Copies of this letter were posted by their partisans on the standard at Cheap, and on several church doors, and other places in

⁴³ We owe this letter, also, to John Stowe's transcribing industry. Harl. MSS. N° 543.

in London, but were taken down by the mayor as soon as he discovered them.

In this address, it is manifest, that they attempted to delude their supporters into a belief, that they intended no personal attack upon Edward, but only on his obnoxious friends; and it was this deception which dethroned him: for they who would have fought zealously for his person and crown, would not oppose those who, they thought, only wished to produce his reformation and better government.

On August the 4th, Warwick left Angiers, to begin his embarkation⁴⁴, and his landing was then daily expected⁴⁵; but Burgundy's fleet was watching the channel. While the invaders paused for an unmolested opportunity of sailing, lord Fitzhugh began the seconding operations, by rising in rebellion in the north. The king hearing nothing from Montague, to whom he was affectionately attached, left his queen in the Tower, on the eve of a maternal confinement, and went northward to meet the earliest danger⁴⁶, appointing his brother Gloucester the warden of the northern Marches⁴⁷; and still believing Montague to be his friend. Fitzhugh fled as he advanced⁴⁸, but as the king was resting one day in his bed on this journey, the serjeant of his minstrels came in great haste to him and bade him arise, for that enemies were coming to take him, who were but seven miles off. The king received the tidings with astonishment. Suddenly a priest appeared with equal speed, and confirmed the unwelcome yet timely news⁴⁹. Edward, by these friends, was preserved from a captivity, which would have been soon made synonymous with death.

At this juncture, an irresistible tempest dispersed the guardian fleet of Burgundy, driving part into Scotland, and part into Holland. Then, suddenly, in an hour's time, changing into serenity, Warwick,

⁴⁴ Harl. MSS. N° 543.

⁴⁸ Fab. 500. Hearne's Frag. 306.

⁴⁵ 2 Fenn, p. 49.

⁴⁶ Hearne's Frag. 306. Fab. 500.

⁴⁹ With this curious fact, Hearne's interesting Fragment terminates abruptly and imperfectly.

⁴⁷ On Aug. 26. Rymer, 11, p. 658.

Warwick, who had been for some time ready, seized the inviting opportunity, weighed anchor and sailed safe to England⁵⁰. Before he had landed five days, a large proportion of the neighboring counties flocked to him⁵¹. He thought now that he was strong enough, and popular enough to throw off the mask; and he published proclamations, declaring Henry VI. to be their true and undoubted king; calling Edward his great rebel and enemy; usurper, oppressor, and destroyer; and assuring the country, that queen Margaret and her son Edward had authorized Clarence, Pembroke, Warwick, and Oxford, to deliver Henry from his imprisonment, and restore him to his crown, and to reform all grievances; and promising a general pardon to all, if they co-operated with the invaders, except certain capital enemies. They ended with commanding all persons between sixteen and sixty to array themselves, and assist them⁵².

Edward, with great spirit, summoned his military forces immediately around him; and among them the marquis Montague, in whom he so fully confided. While these were collecting at Doncaster, Warwick pressed eagerly on to give him battle, and to overwhelm him before the country could recollect itself, and discover that the invaders came to re-establish Henry, and to throw down Edward.

The king, as he told Comines, was with some of his friends in a fortified house, to which there was no access but by a single bridge. The rest of the forces were quartered in the neighboring villages. But as he sat at dinner, news was brought him, that Montague and some other noblemen were riding on horseback through his troops, and crying out, "God bless king Henry." The astounding information was too incredible to be believed, yet too tremendous to be neglected. Life as well as dignity hung upon a few moments. If the one was lost, the other might perhaps yet be

⁵⁰ Com. 1, p. 249.

⁵¹ Ib. 251.

⁵² John Stowe has also preserved this important document. Harl. MSS. p. 171.

BOOK

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be preserved. He therefore sent a trusty messenger to ascertain the truth, while he put on his armor, and posted a battalion of faithful guards at the bridge, to resist any sudden assault. Lord Hastings was then with him, and Anthony, his queen's favorite brother, who began to think that all was not well. His messenger returned with hurrying speed to tell him, that his treacherous enemies were marching to surround and surprize him. He sprang up—fighting and counsel were out of the question. Instantaneous escape was the only possible safety. He got on his horse before they reached the bridge, and leaving Hastings to make the best arrangement for his really faithful adherents that was practicable, he rode full speed to the nearest sea-port. Hastings had time to advise the rest to go in with their submissions to Warwick, but not to forget their old allegiance at a fit opportunity, and then, with others, flew after his master. A sufficient resistance was made at the bridge to obtain the terms they wished, and to gain for the king that interval of time, which would ensure his safety. Edward and his friends reached Lynn, and found there two Dutch vessels and an English one, on the point of sailing. They put off to them immediately without any clothes, but what they were to have fought in, with no money in their pockets, and not one in twenty knowing where they were going. The ships sailed immediately to the coast of Holland, but in their way were descried by several Easterling vessels, then at war both with France and England. Expecting a booty, these hostile strangers bore down upon them. Resistance was hopeless, and outsailing them impossible. There was no alternative but to run ashore, and to risque being drowned. This was courageously done, and they stranded near Alcmaer. The Easterlings followed as close as the depth of water would allow, and then dropped anchor, intending to board them the next tide. Thus Edward's safety still hung on a few hours. But the lord of that province, apprized of his danger, went on board his ship and invited him on shore, commanding the

the Easterlings to be still. He entertained him and his followers, and at his own expence conducted them safely to the Hague, from which he apprized the duke of Burgundy of his situation, who received the account at first with vexation and uneasiness⁵³. On a future day the king displayed his gratitude to the lord who had saved him, by creating him earl of Winchester⁵⁴. Edward was now thrown down from fortune's pinnacle to its base, and by his own weakness and misconduct: but his fall tore him from all that was enervating him; and his native energy of soul, thus emancipated from its debilitating enemies, sprang up into its ancient vigor and activity, and became unwearied, determined, and impatient to renew its former triumphs.

⁵³ Com. 250—5. Edward had nothing to give the master of the ship for his passage, but a gown lined with martins; but he promised

him a future liberality. Ib. 254. This flight occurred about Michaelmas day. Croyl. 554.

⁵⁴ 11 Rym. 765.

HISTORY

OF

ENGLAND.

CHAP. III.

RESTORATION OF HENRY VI. RE-LANDING AND PROGRESS
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WARWICK now proceeded to London unresisted. He entered the metropolis, and on the 6th of October¹, he and Clarence released Henry from the Tower; and afterwards proclaimed his restoration², while Edward's queen fled to a sanctuary in which he dared not molest her, and where she brought forth a son, the unfortunate Edward V³. Thus in eleven days from his landing, he had completed a temporary revolution which must have astonished the most sanguine. From the time of queen Margaret's marriage to the accession of Henry VII. the crown of England appeared like a tennis ball, which the boldest player might strike backwards or forwards as he pleased. Human grandeur

¹ The earliest public acts that have survived to us on this restoration, are dated the 9th of October 1470. Rym. Fed. 661, 2. Stowe's MS. extract, taken 'out Master Bel's boke,' says, that on the 6th of October, the king 'was enlarged out of the Tower, and full royally brought through London, to the bishop's palace, by Paule's.' Harl. MSS. N^o 545, p. 134.

² This was done on October the 18th. Hearne's Frag. 292. On the 20th of October, the prior of St. John was made treasurer of the exchequer, and on the 22d of October, Montague was appointed governor of the northern Marches. Rym. p. 665.

³ On the 1st of November 1470. Croyl. 554.

grandeur seemed to be as mutable, as it was really unnecessary to the personal felicity of both Edward and Henry. The favorite, though dissimilar, gratifications of each might have been fully enjoyed without the throne; the one as a devout clergyman: the other as the gay, dissolute, and convivial gentleman. But they were really little else than the political puppets of their day. It was the interests of others, that alternately elevated and depressed them⁴; as it was the premature deaths of their parents that made both, English kings.

But Warwick had effected this revolution by deceiving and surprising the nation. The people wished to correct Edward, but not to re-inthronize Henry, with his unforgiving though magnanimous queen, and her violent friends. Hence, notwithstanding his brilliant success, Warwick felt no solidity of foundation to rest upon. He could not look around him without seeing, that the spirit of the age and country was against the dislocation he had occasioned. Too many were interested to resist the return of the old establishment, not to make all that he had done precarious and unstable. Hence, he waited for the arrival of Margaret and her auxiliary forces, with an anxiety that he could neither suppress nor conceal. There was a spirit, an intrepidity, and a resolution about Edward, when excited, that kept the public eye in a mysterious expectation of some extraordinary achievement by him. His return, therefore, was talked of as certain: and as he had never struck a blow in vain, something great was anticipated from him. To defeat these hopes, a commission was issued in December to Montague, to put the counties of Nottingham, York, Northumberland, Cumberland, and Westmorland, into military array⁵. Another was directed to Clarence, Warwick, and Oxford, to prepare against the

⁴ How little royalty is essential to personal felicity, may be inferred from Bonaparte's declaration to O'Meara, that the happiest part of his life was from sixteen to twenty. Voice from St. Helena.

⁵ Dated 21 Dec. 1470, at Westminster. 11 Rym. 676.

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the enemies who meant to invade, and to repress all rebels⁶; and others were sent to the sheriffs of Cambridge, Huntingdon, Norfolk, Suffolk, and Essex⁷: and also into Wales⁸, to arm the people in those parts, in behalf of the restored king. Policy used all its skill to make heroic adventure a desperado's fool-hardiness.

The queen not coming, the prior of St. John was appointed to seek her in France, and to urge her presence⁹. Warwick was named admiral of the seas¹⁰, and Clarence the lord lieutenant of Ireland¹¹: a truce was made with France for twelve years¹²; and a new mayor of York was chosen¹³. Thus all the measures of a cautionary and active statesmanship were adopted to protect and perpetuate the new settlement. But it is a common delusion with great men to believe, that human events are commandable by human agency, because they sometimes obey it: the guiding hand that is unseen is, too often for our own happiness, supposed not to exist.

Still Margaret did not arrive with her expected succors, and Edward was known to be earnestly soliciting the duke of Burgundy, to supply him with the means of trying again the chances of his fortune in England. Warwick could not apply the revenues and property of the crown as he thought proper, to strengthen his party; for the prince, or his mother in his name, had expressly limited him by three articles, which fettered his hands till she arrived. These were, that all rewards to lords and others for their good service or sufferings, should be deferred: that a privy council of twelve spiritual and twelve temporal persons should be established; and that no great act of government should be done, nor lands, offices, or benefits granted, till it had been proposed and discussed in this council. Warwick was, therefore, now but what

⁶ Dated 28 Dec. Rym. 677.

⁷ Dated 2 Jan. 1471. Ib. 678.

⁸ Dated 30 Jan. Ib. 680.

⁹ Ib. 670.

¹⁰ Dated 2 Jan. Ib. 679.

¹¹ Dated 18 Feb. Ib. 693.

¹² Dated 16 Feb. Ib. 683.

¹³ Ib. 700.

what Humphrey, the duke of Gloucester, had been, the presiding but the controlled director¹⁴. Uneasy that Margaret delayed her coming, the earl rode to Dover to receive her, or to accelerate her movements; but after long tarrying there in vain, he returned, with vexation at her unaccountable delay¹⁵.

When the duke of Burgundy heard of Edward's escape, he would rather have been told of his death¹⁶. Offended at the rejection of the advice which would have saved him, undervaluing him for his supineness and luxury, and embarrassed by the dread of Warwick's directing the force of England, in aid of Louis against himself, Burgundy could not determine at first how to receive his expatriated relation. The preparations of the English at Calais to attack him, decided his mind to sign a treaty of alliance with Henry, and publicly to discountenance his humbled competitor¹⁷. Edward joined his court, and was earnest for his assistance; but the dukes of Somerset and Exeter, to whom Burgundy had given a kind asylum, counteracted the intreaties of the exiled king¹⁸.

Depreciated for his past imprudencies, and neglected and disliked for his present inutility and compromising interruptions, Edward's deposition seemed complete: and the political vibrations of Burgundy's mind, might have at last settled in sacrificing him to his immediate interests; when a new star of hope arose in Edward's dreary night, and from the station of his enemies.

Clarence had powerfully contributed to depose his brother; but, solicited as already mentioned, and now beginning to appreciate more

¹⁴ These articles form another of Stowe's transcripts. Harl. MSS. N° 543.

¹⁵ Feb. 502. Adverse weather kept her away. It was so contrary, that she lay at the sea-side, waiting for a wind, from November to April. Ib.

¹⁶ Com. l. 3, c. 5, p. 255. Comines was

the person dispatched by the duke of Burgundy to Calais, on the news of this revolution, to open an amicable negotiation with Warwick. Ib. p. 256—8.

¹⁷ Com. l. 3, c. 6, p. 257—9.

¹⁸ Ib. p. 256—60.

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more justly the consequences to himself, he became dissatisfied with his own success. He found that it deprived his family of all hope of the crown, and sank himself, from the brother of a king, to the condition of a suspected, envied, and dangerous nobleman: too great to be favored; too near in blood to an enemy to be trusted. By the friends of Henry he was hated and despised—as all men are who break up the ties of natural relationship—and his future instability was feared. It was easy now to convince him, as his own mind was reluctantly beginning to perceive, that he would soon be an object for plunder by the friends of the government, who coveted his possessions: for he saw that he had conciliated no confidence, and obtained no friends, and could not preclude jealousy. He had been used as a temporary instrument to serve the purposes of others, and the accomplishment of these were followed with neglect and jeopardy to himself. Under such impressions, his mother and sisters, the duchesses of Exeter and Suffolk, found him favorable to a reconciliation with Edward. Their interference was supported by the cardinal archbishop, the earls of Bath and Essex, and especially by the unwearied activity of the duchess of Burgundy¹⁹. Her affection for Edward was unshaken and ardent, and she carried on a zealous mediation between her two brothers. Some priests were the unsuspected medium who managed this dangerous negociation; for the vacillations of the different orders of the churchmen, seeking only their own advantage, was at this period continual. Hastings added his intreaties; and the result of their united efforts was, a resolution to join his brother, if he should effectuate a landing in England, and

¹⁹ I am now again indebted to a highly valuable memoir of some person of consideration at this period, which Mr. John Stowe has transcribed, as he says, out of Mr. Flyghtwod's book, the recorder of London. The beginning states, that it was 'compiled and put in this form following by a servaunt of the

kyng's, that presently *saw* in effect a great part of his exploits, and the residue knew by true relation of them that were present at every tyme.' Harl. MSS. N^o 543, p. 32. Thus we have an authentic account of Edward's extraordinary recovery of his throne. Stowe has made no use of this in his Chronicle.

and make such a progress in it as would give a reasonable prospect of success to those who should support him.

These assurances, combined with favorable representations of the state of feeling towards him of other gentlemen and places, determined Edward to undertake the perilous enterprize. His high spirited brother, the duke of Gloucester, was not backward to dare the risque; and Hastings, and their other friends, had felt enough of the privations of an exile's life, to prefer all the chances of a romantic adventure to a continuance of their humiliation.

But as England was so completely in the hands of his enemies, and every part where he could land was full of their forces, it was requisite that he should have a sufficient body of men with him to support his landing, and to make his first advances safe, both to himself and his friends. He was not going, like Henry IV. to meet a generally discontented and inviting country, and to find a slothful and unwarlike adversary. He knew he had to meet men trained to battle, and who loved it; and who would be as alert as he was, and determined to contest with him to the grave the restoration he desired.

As the duke of Burgundy was collecting his forces to meet his endangering antagonist, Louis XI. in the field, he could not give him, if he had been inclined, any open or effective succors. But his duchess supplied her brother with such resources as she could command.

The duke of Burgundy being deterred, by his managing policy, from any avowed support, carried his duplicity, in that age of Machiavel and Machiavellian statesmanship, so far as to declare publicly, that he would give the king no assistance; and to issue a proclamation, forbidding any of his subjects to accompany him. But he privately sent him 50,000 florins, had three or four great ships equipped for him at La Vere, in Walcheren, and secretly hired fourteen well-armed Easterlings, to transport his followers to
England,

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Edward sails
from Hol-
land.

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England, and to wait fifteen days on the coast, while he tried the issue of his perilous adventure²⁰.

About 800 men had followed Edward to the Dutch coast. By the 2d of March 1471, he had collected 2,000 brave and resolute Englishmen; and on this day, nearly the anniversary of his accession, he embarked them for his great adventure.

The wind immediately became unfavorable, but so earnest were his feelings in the prosecution of his purpose, that he would not re-land. Nine days they all patiently waited in the ships, lamenting the unchanging breeze, and confined to the harbour; but on the eleventh of March, the desired wind occurred. They sailed straight to the coast of Norfolk, and on the next evening came before Cromer²¹.

But lord Oxford had been sent down to watch all the eastern coast, and his letter on the 14th of March, shows, that he was attending this duty, and making exertions and forming plans to repel or destroy Edward²².

Edward sent a boat on shore for some gentlemen in the neighbourhood, to learn from them how the country was disposed towards him. They told him, that all these parts had been filled by Warwick with military forces, and that Oxford was vigilantly superintending them. The duke of Norfolk, from whose friendship he had much hope, and all the gentry of similar feelings, had been ordered to London, and imprisoned; so that it would be certain danger, without hope of benefit, to land in that county. Edward listened to the faithful advice, and stood off to sea²³. A severe storm now attacked his little fleet, and distressed it for two

²⁰ Com. p. 261.

²¹ Flyghtwood's Book. Harl. MSS. N° 543.

²² He says, 'I have disposed with me all the power that I can make in Essex and Suffolk, Cambridgeshire, and other places, to be, on Monday next, at Bury; which purpose I intend to observe towards you in Norfolk, to the assistance of you and the country, in

case Edward, with his company, had arrived there. And yet I shall do the same, notwithstanding; for if he arrive northward, I cast to follow and pursue him. At Henningham, 14 March. (Thursday.)' 2 Fenn, 57.

²³ Harl. MSS. N° 543. The wisdom of Edward's avoiding to land in Norfolk, we see from Oxford's preceding letter of 14 March.

two days and nights. Twelve days had elapsed since he had embarked, and he had not yet landed. This interval gave his antagonists time to make every point he could reach, a scene of danger or ruin.

On the 14th of March, in great peril from the continuing tempest, he got to Humber-head, in his single ship. All the others were dispersed, without any knowledge of their mutual situation. But he resolved to land from the perilous ocean wherever he could, at every hazard; and finding himself at Ravenspur, on the Humber, which Henry IV. had selected, he disembarked there with lord Hastings, and 500 men, who had accompanied him in his vessel, and calmly waited for tidings of the others. These were actuated by the same spirit of determination and courage. The duke of Gloucester, with 100 men, as soon as he could, landed four miles from his brother. Lord Rivers, and 200 more, reached the shore fourteen miles from him, and the rest at other points as they could reach them. It is not improbable, that this dispersion was beneficial to him. His forces arriving, though unintentionally, at so many places, made the government less able to calculate his movements, or determine the precise spot to which to direct their opposing armies; so many landings also multiplied his strength in the popular estimation²⁴.

He lands in
England.

The king left the coast immediately, and with a small retinue, slept that night at a poor village, two miles from his landing. The next morning, as the tempest had somewhat abated, he was gratified with hearing that his friends were all safe, and were advancing towards him. But the country gave him no gratulations. He was joined by few or none. The supporters of Warwick and Henry had preceded him. Their activity kept the population either faithful to their cause or detached from him—all were in arms, but none to favor him.

In this state of real danger, it was difficult to determine what were

²⁴ Harl. MSS. N° 543.

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were the best measures to be adopted. He was now in the part where his father had been most popular and most powerful, and he had expected that here, at least, he would have been welcomed and strengthened. But he found the people of the country collected in great numbers in various places in their battle armor, ready to resist him, and no one moving to his side. The truth was, that whatever might be the private wishes of the Yorkshire men, his enterprize had as yet too much the appearance of rashness, and of probable discomfiture, to induce any to compromise their safety, by declaring in his favor²⁵.

But although he received no support, he found every where an unwillingness to injure him. The armed bodies that watched him were content with standing aloof and looking on. No one offered to annoy him.

In this doubtful state of things, he assembled a council of his wisest companions, to discuss the plan of their future operations. Their principal antagonists were in the southern counties, and about London, and until some blow could be successfully struck at them, no safe footing would be obtained. But his forces were yet only what he had brought with him; and thus unbefriended, were unequal to a conflict with the strength of their enemy: besides, their nearest way to London was through Lincolnshire, and they could hope for no advantage, but from that surprize which they might gain by superior celerity. Yet, as to reach the capital with speed they must traverse Lincolnshire, it was necessary again to take shipping, and cross the Humber. Their late tossings on the sea had, however, given them an abhorrence of the water; and it was also suggested, that any re-embarking would be misconstrued into flight, and thus extinguish all courage in their friends, who, though

²⁵ Harl. MSS. N° 543. The MS. which Stowe transcribed, and from which we take these facts, was not written by Mr. Flyghtwood: but was a MS. in his possession. It appears, by some papers in the Lansdowne collection, now in the British Museum, that

Flyghtwood was recorder in the time of queen Elizabeth. This valuable history of Edward's restoration purports to be written, as we have already mentioned, by a contemporary and assistant of his extraordinary progress.

though yet tranquil, were in many parts of the country waiting only to see a determined spirit, and a successful progress, to come forward on their side²⁶.

They concluded their deliberations by resolving to press boldly on towards York. As they found the nation, even in the districts least unfriendly to them, not disposed to renew any quarrel about the crown, it was also determined, that Edward should at this time make no pretensions to that. Hence, all his followers were directed to declare, that he limited his wishes to be again the duke of York, and to be re-instated in his paternal inheritance. The diffusion of this moderate claim satisfied the country; and though various bodies of armed men, six or seven thousand in number, were in different places assembled against him, at one part under a warlike priest, and in others under the local gentry, yet none moved to attack him. He passed without molestation to Beverly, on his road to York; but Hull being a strong town, and a convenient sea port, in case of failure, he sent a detachment to secure it. Its commander, however, shut the gates and refused them admittance. Edward was not disheartened by this repulse, and moved on the high road towards York.

As he passed along, he found the same undecided and discouraging public feeling. Great companies of men assembled in array, to watch his steps, but kept out of sight, and made no hostile movement. Though it was obvious that they would be his friends, if he succeeded, it was no less probable that they would become his foes and destroyers on his retreat, if he met with any disaster. The known hardiness and desperate courage of himself and his companions, contributed to deter them from any attack; and it is intimated, that judicious distributions of money to their leaders were also not unavailing²⁷.

He came in sight of York on Monday, the 18th of March.

At

²⁶ Harl. MSS. N° 543.

²⁷ Ib.

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At a distance of three miles, the recorder of the city, a friend of the Lancastrians, came out to deter him from approaching it. This wily politician assured him, that he would not be suffered to enter it, and would be undone if he attempted it. Edward was perplexed at this disappointment; but a short deliberation was sufficient to decide his correct judgment. He felt that he had advanced too far to recede—destruction was certain if he retreated. Boldness and vigor only could now save him; and he declared, that he would pursue, with unshaken constancy, what he had began, and rather abide what God and good fortune would give him, though the issue was uncertain, than fall by defect of courage, or live to sustain reproach. He determined rightly. No enterprize like his should be attempted without a settled resolution to persevere through every difficulty and discouragement, and to conquer or die: without this determination, no adventurer can sufficiently assure his supporters, sound the depths of his own resources, put the real strength of his opponents to the full proof, or obtain the benefit of all the circumstances that may arise. Thus fixed in heart and will, Edward bade his troops move on.

His courageous decision was rewarded within a mile of the city, by meeting two of the inhabitants, who came out to tell him, that if he aspired only to his father's dignity and possessions, he would be received with friendship, and suffered to pass forward. The artful recorder attempted to contradict their assurances; but Edward suspected his sincerity, and advanced to the city gates.

He there halted his little army, and with only sixteen selected friends, entered the walls. The heads of the city were assembled near the entrance, but he gallantly put himself into their power, and his confidence gratified them. He stated his limited wishes, and was heard with friendly attention. They admitted all his company for that night, refreshed them with all necessaries, and after

after their dinner, on the following day, the 19th of March, permitted them to depart for Tadcaster. None joined them, but none molested²⁸.

Edward had as yet gained nothing either to secure his safety or to effectuate his restoration. It was a severe disappointment to find only neutrality where he had most expected aid. It was clear that he had no one but Clarence to rely on, and yet even his co-operation was not likely to be made, if all the rest of the country kept away. Still, however, he must dare the event, though the prospect was gloomy. He had no choice but to plunge into greater danger. The farther he advanced, the more impossible became retreat. But life without success was now become indifferent to them all. A calm, dignified, and most resolute courage was the consequence of this situation: but personal bravery was characteristic of the house of York.

From Tadcaster, on the next morning²⁹, they moved to Wakefield and Sendall, leaving Pomfret castle on their left.

Here they approached a point of great peril. The marquis Montague was in this castle. He had been advertized by his brother Warwick of Edward's landing, and had been ordered to oppose him. The subsequent events proved that Montague stood firm in Warwick's interest. It was therefore expected that he would advance to annihilate Edward.

The movements from Pomfret castle were watched with the greatest anxiety by the daring but insecure invaders; but as they marched on, their scouts brought no alarm of any forces quitting it. Edward gave the marquis no time to decide any doubt or hesitation, or to collect more strength. He passed rapidly on to Doncaster, and from thence without pause to Nottingham, wisely judging,

²⁸ On this day, (19 March) lord Oxford issued letters from Bury, to several gentlemen of the country he commanded, stating, that he had received tidings of Edward's landing in the north, and calling on them to meet

him in full array, at Lynn, on the next Friday, (the 22d) to proceed to Newark. 2 Fenn, 59—61.

²⁹ Harl. MSS. March 20.

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judging, that his best course was at once to throw himself into the heart of the country, to feel its general pulse before he was intercepted; and correctly perceiving, that to elude any attack before this experiment was made, was the surest means of future victory³⁰.

The whole nation afterwards, when it came to reflect on this period of wonders, was astonished at the inactivity of Montague, at a juncture so critical. But a contemporary informs us, that the rapidity of Edward's movements brought the adventurers into his vicinity before he had forces enough to encounter them. He saw that a majority of the population was in their favor, but would not join them till they had gained some great advantage; and he knew that from their unquestionable bravery and martial skill, no hasty attack would avail. He was, therefore, afraid of injuring his own cause by encountering them only to be defeated. He was also alarmed by the visible neutrality of the earl of Northumberland, whose followers had permitted Edward to pass unassailed. He saw no one whom he could rely on beyond his own knights and retainers, and he hesitated to compromise his brother's safety by a precipitate battle, which Edward would have willingly fought with his powers alone: because the first victory of an invader always doubles his chances of future success. It seemed also wisdom to let Edward bury himself in the centre of the island, in which all the Lancastrian forces could be assembled to surround him. Hence, as he had not the means of certainly preventing his advance, he let them pass unmolested; but prepared with all his vigor to join the government armies, with his collected strength³¹.

But however prudent his conduct seemed, or may have been, it was

³⁰ Harl. MSS.

³¹ In judging of Montague, we may remember, what the Fragment mentioned, that Edward *entirely loved him*. p. 306. This feeling, and some remorse for his former

treachery to such a man, may have contributed to make the marquis hesitate, till the critical moment of possible interception had passed.

was auspicious to Edward. It kindled a popular belief, that Montague, as well as Northumberland, secretly befriended him. It was an easy and obvious inference to all, that the invaders could not have passed so far into the country without annoyance, and would not have ventured, if they had not been secretly and powerfully favored. The hesitating, therefore, now began to decide. Some few, though not so many as had been hoped, joined them in their march to Nottingham; but at this town, two knights came openly to him with six hundred men, and thus shewed that the tide of public opinion was beginning to flow towards him.

Yet this addition afforded but small means for reconquering the crown of England. It did not raise all their force to 3,000 men, and the whole risque of the enterprize was yet before them. But it relieved that solicitude of mind, which the bravest men cannot but feel, in attempting a grand adventure against superior power; and which Edward, his undaunted brother, and the high-souled Rivers, and Hastings experienced, in a dangerous march from Ravenspur to Nottingham, amid arrays of armed men, coldly looking on without aiding, and, by their cautious avoidance, silently proclaiming their belief of a hopeless failure³².

From Nottingham, Edward, while he rested here a few days, sent confidential persons to scour all the adjacent country, and ascertain what forces were collecting against him. Some found, that at Newark, on the left of their rear, the duke of Exeter, lord Oxford, and others, had assembled 4,000 men from the eastern counties. This was a dangerous force, if it had been wisely commanded; but such was Edward's reputation for activity of

³² Harl. MSS. So judicious were Edward's movements, and so rapid, that it does not appear that they were known to the government in the metropolis, till near the 25th of March, the eleventh day after his landing; and he was by that time in the heart of England. It is on the 25th of March, that the government order was issued at Westminster,

stating, that Edward had newly entered the realm; and commanding Clarence, Pembroke, and Warwick, to convoke the king's subjects against him and his adherents. Rymer 11, p. 705. The next order is dated the 27th of March, also stating, that he had landed with rebels, Flemings, and Burgundians. p. 706.

of movement, and resolute gallantry, that the very appearance of his scouts raised a conviction that his whole army was approaching: and as report had magnified its amount, the noble leaders became afraid of a surprize, and at two in the morning, though his most vindictive enemies, fled with precipitation out of the town, abandoning part of the troops they had brought, and discouraging all their friends, by a panic so disgraceful.

They had not calculated wrongly on Edward's conduct; as soon as he was apprized of their being at Newark, he moved immediately towards the town, and was within three miles of it when he heard of their flight. Satisfied with their dispersion, he returned to Nottingham, emboldened now to move immediately against Warwick, his most dreaded adversary, and who, he was here informed, had left London, and was embodying an army at his town of Warwick³³.

Rapidity of movement, that he might attack before Warwick could overpower him with numbers, became now his wisest policy: and as Edward never wanted a quick-sighted judgement, when he was really in action, he took the nearest way through Leicester, to confront, immediately, the man who at this moment was really the sovereign of England.

The gallantry of this conduct disconcerted Warwick: and, though he had a larger army than the king, he was afraid of risking it against a man whose military talents he well knew. Hence, as Edward approached, he withdrew, without fighting, to the stronger fortifications of Coventry.

This conduct first gave Edward an assured footing in the country. It was such a confession of personal inferiority, of Edward's merit, and of his re-ascending power, that it removed from many minds,

³³ Harl. MSS. One great cause of Edward's successful advances was, that the troops on which the government most relied were stationed on the eastern and southern sea-coasts, to guard them against Edward's invasion; but, by the celerity, secrecy, and skilful

direction of his progress, he was approaching the metropolis before the orders to move elsewhere could reach them. Hence, all that Warwick could do was, to wait till they could join, and to let his adversary get to his capital unmolested.

minds all fear of the consequences of supporting the house of York. Three thousand trusty men, whom the messengers of Hastings had urged, now unhesitatingly joined him at Leicester, and made his forces between 6 and 7,000 men. With these, on the 29th of March, he marched straight to Coventry, and defied the earl to end the quarrel by a personal combat. Warwick refused to accept the challenge. Three days Edward marched up to the walls, repeating the defiance, and exciting the enthusiasm of his friends, by his intrepid demeanor. As often, the earl declined the martial invitation.

Edward, wisely avoiding a siege, drew his forces to the town of Warwick, where he was now received as king. He felt that he had already more than half reconquered his crown; and he issued proclamations, resuming his royal dignity, and encouraging his adherents³⁴.

Mutual friends now daily interfered, to effect a reconciliation between him and Warwick. The king promised him both pardon and liberal favors; but Warwick would not listen to the amicable overtures.

This state of things removed all scruples from the mind of Clarence, and he advanced to join the king with 4,000 followers. Edward marched, with all his array, three miles out of Warwick to meet him; received him with banners displayed, and affectionate embraces. The trumpets and minstrels sounded their congratulating music, and the united forces marched into Warwick, amid the general acclamations. Clarence also attempted to induce Warwick to abandon the house of Lancaster. But the earl saw that he had done too much to be cordially forgiven or safely trusted again; and had also too deeply, of his own seeking, pledged himself to the French king, in behalf of queen Margaret, to abandon her cause without indelible dishonor. The negotiations therefore

³⁴ Harl. MSS. Croyland mentions, that the earl did not dare to fight with the king at Coventry. p. 554.

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therefore failed, and Edward, after another display of defiance before Coventry, on the 5th of April, marched onwards to London, while Exeter, Montague, Oxford, and others, united themselves, soon afterwards, with Warwick, in his rear³⁵.

On the 6th of April, being Palm-Sunday, the king paused to hear divine service, with great devotion, at Daventry, and thence proceeded to Northampton, where he was cordially received. He took the direct road to the metropolis; but with the precaution of guarding his rear by a good band of spears and archers, in case his enemies had attempted to follow him.

The English noblemen who were the most zealous for the house of Lancaster, and the most confided in by the queen,—the duke of Somerset, his brother the Lancastrian marquis of Dorset, and Courtney the earl of Devon,—had been in London when Edward landed. But, apprized that queen Margaret, with her son, was coming, with lord Wenlock, the countess of Warwick, the prior of St. John, and fresh supplies out of France, to consolidate Henry's restoration, Somerset and his friends had left the capital to raise an army from the western counties, and join her, while Warwick operated in the inland districts. The queen and her party entered their ships at Harfleur, on the 24th of March, when Edward was at or near Nottingham. But at this critical moment, on which the fate of both the rival houses hung, adverse winds and tempestuous weather kept them for twenty most important and irrecoverable days, still on the coast of France, while the anxious and impatient Somerset was chiding the tantalizing delay, and imploring the deaf winds to be propitious. It was not till the 13th of April, Easter-eve, that they could leave their French port: nor did they land in England till the 14th, Easter-Sunday, a day on which the most fatal change of their fortunes was destined to begin³⁶.

It was in the absence of all these great noblemen, that Edward, on

³⁵ Harl. MSS.³⁶ Ib. p. 38.

on the 9th of April, drew near London, in which Henry, his inefficient competitor, was then residing, in that brief shew of royalty which his unambitious mind did not covet, and had never valued. Warwick had not been inattentive to this movement. He had left the metropolis under the care of his brother, the archbishop of York, and sent to him, and to the mayor, earnest letters to rouse the citizens against Edward. He only asked them to keep him out for three days, and promised to come with adequate power to chastise the bold attempt.

The archbishop, in obedience to his brother's mandate, assembled, at St. Paul's, all their military friends, but found them not to exceed six or seven thousand men. To kindle the fire of loyalty in the city, he put king Henry on horseback, and made him ride in state through Cheapside to Wallbrook, and back to St. Paul's, that the sight of the son of their favorite, the fifth Harry, might rouse the population to befriend him. But the rulers of the city beheld the pageantry and its appeal without emotion. They took possession of the gates, and evinced no friendly spirit to the Lancastrian cause³⁷. Edward that night reached St. Albans; and Henry's friends, perceiving that their real supporters were few, and those who were adverse to them were numerous, did not attempt to maintain their important position, for the small time which Warwick had asked; but deserted their loyalty and honor, and suffered the mayor and aldermen, without a struggle, to keep the city for king Edward. The archbishop took the lead in this treachery to Henry, and sent privately to Edward, requesting pardon, and promising submission and obedience. Forgiveness was promised him, and all resistance was abandoned. The Tower of London was that night taken possession of by Edward's friends; and on the next day, the 11th of April, he came in person, and rode

³⁷ Harl. MSS. Fabian mentions, on the archbishop's exhibiting Henry in this manner to the people, that 'this rather withdrew men's hearts, than otherwise.' p. 503. The

meek and impassive Henry was, at this moment, a complete contrast to the wonderful energy and talent of Edward, in his masterly march from Ravenspur to London.

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rode to St. Paul's, and to the bishop's palace. There the unfaithful prelate met him, with king Henry in his hand, whom he traiterously surrendered to his rival. Edward proceeded to Westminster abbey, and offered his earnest thanks for his surprizing train of success. In twenty-eight days from his landing at the Humber, he had reached his metropolis, regained his crown, and captured his competitor, without even one interrupting battle. He visited immediately his queen, who was still at her sanctuary in the abbey, and she presented him with the prince to whom she had given birth in his absence³⁸.

³⁸ Harl. MSS. The archbishop was sent to the Tower. Of him Paston writes, 'Nevertheless, he shall do well enough. He hath a pardon, and so we hope well.' 2 Fenn, 65.

HISTORY

OF

ENGLAND.

CHAP. IV.

RESTORATION OF EDWARD IV. BATTLE OF BARNET. QUEEN
MARGARET LANDS. MARCHES OF EACH PARTY. BATTLE
OF TEWKESBURY. FALCONBRIDGE ATTACKS LONDON.
KING HENRY'S DEATH.

EDWARD was not yet to indulge in that repose of enjoyment which he loved. He had placed himself on the vantage ground, and had obtained new means of maintaining it: but the battles remained to be fought, and the victories to be gained, that were to decide whether the white or the red rose was to continue on the throne of England. Warwick, who had now embodied the forces he thought sufficient, was marching on to the capital, true to his promise; and Edward on the next morning, 12 April. Good-Friday, summoned a hasty council to deliberate on the most advisable measures to withstand an attack, whose issue no one could as yet foresee.

Warwick was advancing with confidence that one of two things must happen. Either the citizens would be keeping the king at bay, and then his army would place Edward between two attacks, that would probably ensure his destruction; or, if the city had

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had received him, the usual solemnities of Easter would be so occupying his adherents, that it would be an easy matter to surprize and overwhelm them.

But the most prominent qualities of Edward's mind, were intrepidity, promptitude, and soldierly judgment. His spies had completely watched Warwick, and communicated his movements. Hence, on Easter-eve, the 13th of April, Edward quitted London, to fight the battle out of the streets of the metropolis, taking Henry with him¹.

April 13.

He marched to Barnet, ten miles from London, that afternoon; where his out-riders met those of the earl, and drove them through the town, and advanced far enough to see the army of Warwick drawn up in array by the side of an hedge. The king, apprized of this, would not let one of his men remain in the town, but proceeded through it into the fields beyond, as close to his adversary as it was safe to lodge.

It was now quite dark. He could not see precisely how or where his opponents were embattled before him: but he took his station at a venture, at a point which he thought sufficiently near for his future operations; and soon found that it was much closer than he had supposed or intended.

He meant to have rested immediately in their front; but the obscurity caused him to mistake the extent of their position: and without knowing what he had done, he placed his troops on one side only of their's, outstriding their left, but leaving none opposed to their right. He commanded silence to be kept, that Warwick might know none of his movements.

Both parties had artillery; but Warwick much more than the king, and, fortunately for the latter, had placed it in his right wing. Here, supposing that Edward's left was before it, he ordered the gunners to cannonade it all night. This would have occasioned a serious

¹ Harl. MSS. N° 543. Croyland intimates, that Warwick expected to surprize Edward at his devotions, on Easter Sunday. p. 554.

a serious loss to the king, and have discouraged his troops against the next day's encounter, if they had been placed as the king designed: but his miscalculation of Warwick's position prevented this disaster. Having put no part of his army in this quarter, all Warwick's night-cannonade was fired at nothing. Edward, as the flashes of the guns illumined by fits the gloom of midnight, saw the advantage of his unintentional error, and to prevent Warwick from discovering it, reiterated his orders for the most profound silence. Warwick was thus prevented from knowing that his enemies were so near, or how they were really stationed; otherwise, as he appears to have been superior in numbers, as well as in artillery, a night attack, in a right direction, might have been fatal to the king².

On the morning of Easter-Sunday, the 14th of April, Edward was in the field arranging his troops, between four and five o'clock. A great mist covered both armies. Each divided his force into three divisions, with reserves. Montague and Oxford led on the earl's right wing, Somerset his centre, and he himself, with the duke of Exeter, directed the left. Edward intrusted his right to his brother, the duke of Gloucester, although then but nineteen, and his left to lord Hastings, and stationed himself in his centre³.

Battle of
Barnet, 14th
April, 1471.

The mist continued so thick that neither party could see the other, except at intervals. But the king, desirous, from his inferiority in cannon, and from his confidence in his troops, to make it a close and personal combat, advanced his banners, blew his trumpets, and, after a few shot, joined immediately in a conflict of hand to hand.

His misconception of the position of Warwick, which had saved his army in the night, began now to operate to his disadvantage; for the earl's right so greatly outflanked his left, that when they came into actual contact, Hastings found himself nearly surrounded by a force which no valor could repel. His wing fought with vigorous

² Harl. MSS. N° 543.

³ Ib. Hall, 295, 6.

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vigorous courage, but was at length broken by Oxford's superior numbers, and was driven out of the field. Many fled to Barnet, and some to London, spreading every where the news that the king was defeated and ruined⁴.

The mist prevented the rest of both armies from knowing the discomfiture of Edward's left wing⁵: hence neither the one was encouraged by it, nor the other disheartened. But the king, being in the centre, became first acquainted with it, and before advantage could be taken of it, made a vigorous charge on Warwick's centre, with such irresistible violence, that he bore down all before him. In vain Somerset attempted to check him. All that opposed were cut down; and as he pierced the lines, he doubled on each side on those who yet stood, and put the earl's main battle into general confusion. At the same time his right, under Gloucester, having also outflanked the earl's left, by the accident of their position, was now reaping the full advantage of this circumstance. Warwick himself was here, and, by having chosen this part, had probably meant to have made it his destructive attack on Edward's line; yet courage and despair were ineffectual to preserve his wing from ruin. His centre being penetrated at the same time that he was thus surrounded, nothing but a judicious conduct of his successful right could have saved him. But on Oxford's returning from his pursuit of the king's left, it is stated that the badge of his men, a star with streaming rays, being mistaken to be the king's forces, whose device was the sun, he was received with a discharge of arrows, from that part of Warwick's yet standing centre which they approached. At first, a conflict as supposed antagonists, and afterwards a mutual belief of treachery, shook this part of Warwick's line into confusion. His whole army was

⁴ Harl. MSS. Fabian also mentions this fact, and adds, that if Oxford's men had kept their array, and not fallen to rifling, the victory would have been to their party. p. 504.

⁵ Of this fog, it is amusing to read in

Fabian, 'of the mists, and other impediments, which fell upon the lord's party, *by reason of the incantations wrought by friar Bungey*, as the fame then went, me list not to write. p. 504.

was thus, from these various causes, thrown into total rout. The battle had been so severe, that all the leaders of both sides were compelled to exert themselves individually as soldiers, as well as commanders. Warwick fell fighting desperately on foot. His brother, the marquis, also perished. Exeter was struck down, and left for dead, but Oxford and Somerset escaped. Edward lost two lords, and the heir of another. The battle was short, though furious, for it had only lasted three hours. The king's forces did not exceed 9,000 men⁶. His loss was less than 2,000. Warwick's slain were 7,000, and, from this number, his army must have been greatly superior to Edward's⁷. It seems singular that the king should have been attended from the metropolis by so small a host. But the determined advance of Warwick may have made the citizens cautious of joining either party, till some deciding victory had occurred: and Edward's reliance on his own military skill, and on the resolution of his well-selected soldiers, made him always desirous to fight a pitched battle, whenever he could fix his adversary to an assailable position.

The death of Warwick released both parties from an ambitious and restless spirit, too powerful to be a peaceful subject to any sovereign, yet compelled always to remain one. He had deposed and re-inthroned Henry. He had crowned and banished Edward, alternately supporting either as his irascibility actuated him. The
Lancastrians

⁶ Harl. MSS. Croyland calls this a 'mirabilis,' 'inspirata,' and 'gloriosa' victory. p. 555. Sir John Paston, who had fought in it on Warwick's side, writes of it, on the Thursday afterwards, 'God hath shewed himself marvellously like him that made all, and can undo again when him list; and I think, that by all likelihood shall shew himself as marvellous again, and that in short time, and, as I suppose, oftener than once, in cases like this.' 2 Fenn, 67. He alludes here to the next impending battle: for he says, 'Margaret is verily landed, and her son, in the west country, and I trow, that

to-morrow, or else the next day, the kyng Edward will depart from hence to her ward, to drive her out again.' 67.

⁷ Harl. MSS. Paston, whose brother was wounded with an arrow on his right arm, beneath the elbow, in the battle, and who was himself in it, after mentioning Warwick's and Montague's death, on the one side, and Lords Say and Cromwell on Edward's, says loosely, 'and other people of both parties, to the number of more than a thousand.' 2 Fenn, 65. But the nature and duration of the struggle make the numbers in the text, taken from the contemporary MS. more probable.

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Lancastrians hated him, even while he re-established them, and the Yorkists could trust or respect him no more. He had been too guilty, too absurd, and too mischievous, to live with any future credit or comfort to himself, or to any others. It cannot be truly said, that death is a boon to any but the pious; yet life to Warwick could only have been a succession of remorse, spleen, contempt, aversion, misanthropy and despair, unless he could have submitted to the penitence and self-humiliation of a La Trappe: but there was nothing in his character which had such a tendency; and this celebrated king-maker and un-maker, finding victory wrenched from his grasp, seems, like one of his most impetuous assailants, fourteen years afterwards, erring like him from an unprincipled ambition, to have sought that fate in the field which had now become his only good. Hence, like Richard in his last scene, whom he was then confronting, he dismounted, and fought on foot. both as an example, and in despair. Nature, at length exhausted or dismayed, abated his resolution, and began to shrink from its catastrophe. He “was slain somewhat flying⁸.”

As the battle was over before nine in the morning, the king only waited at Barnet to refresh his troops, and the same day returned to London. His victory having made loyalty safe, he was now received with warm acclamations: and they who had left him to dare his fate, with the 9,000 men he had brought with him, gratulated him as a conqueror, with a popular joy, which his policy or vanity alone could welcome. He rode straight to St. Paul's, and is described to have paid his grateful devotions with humble thankfulness⁹.

The revolt of Warwick had divided the friends of the house of York. His death re-united them, and left again only two parties in the

⁸ Harl. MSS. Lord Oxford wrote, after this battle, ‘I am escaped myself, and suddenly departed from my men, for I understand my chaplain would have betrayed me. Send me in all haste all the ready money ye can make, and as many of my men as can come

well horsed, and in divers parcels.’ He was still sanguine of Henry's success. ‘Be of good cheer, and take no thought, for I shall bring my purpose about now.’ 2 Fenn, 71.

⁹ Ib. MSS.

the country: those who wished the new dynasty, and those who preferred the old one. Warwick's defeat had not much weakened the Lancastrian side. He had fought his battle chiefly with his family power, and the resources of the house of Lancaster were still nearly entire. Hence, Edward had yet to make the decisive struggle with them; and this was felt to be a dangerous and uncertain crisis. Few, therefore, of the nobility and gentry yet chose to commit themselves by joining with him. It was known that queen Margaret was on the seas, with great foreign supplies, and that her friends were numerous and sanguine in all the west and south. Edward found, that he must expect no secure reign or cordial attachment, till this last hope of the red rose was encountered and defeated; and looked with anxiety to discern in what quarter the storm would appear, or could be most wisely confronted.

The queen, baffled by adverse winds and tempests, had often landed and re-landed at Harfleur, as the weather fluctuated; but it did not permit her to sail till Easter-eve; and on the next day, while Warwick was fighting at Barnet, she landed at Weymouth. Her companion, the countess of Warwick, first reached England in her ship at Portsmouth; but hearing there of her husband's fate, she resolved not to join the queen, passed secretly into the new forest, and, weary of the sanguinary times, took shelter in the abbey of Beaulieu. The queen, with her lords and partisans, went from Weymouth to Cerne Abbey, where the duke of Somerset, the earl of Devon and others, came to her. She did not hear of the defeat at Barnet till the next day, and was greatly affected. But her counsellors assured her that it was no disadvantage. Their party, instead of being feebler, was made stronger by Warwick's fall. They had no doubt but that they could assemble so great a puissance of people in various parts, that it would not be in Edward's power to repress them¹⁰.

Landing of
queen Mar-
garet.

It

¹⁰ Harl. MSS.

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It does not appear that they reasoned erroneously. As Warwick had displayed no peculiar talents as a commander, his personal loss was no evil. His moral influence in the country had ceased: he had been a master whom no one dared to affront, or could manage, and as such he was an incumbrance to wise council, not an assistant. Many a Lancastrian abhorred him too much to serve under him; and his vacillations precluded that confidence, which desires to stake life and fortune firmly on the venture it undertakes, and which now both of the conflicting parties desired and needed. It is probable, that the calculations of the Lancastrians would have been verified by the issue, if Edward had not been the ablest captain at that time existing. He had never lost a battle, however inferior in number, and few had fought more; and all his movements, from his debarkation on the Humber, to the complete re-establishment of his power, display a military sagacity, a watchful thought, activity, decision, quick and correct judgment, intrepidity and energy, which only required a larger field of enterprize to rank him with those great conquerors, whom the enthusiasm, rather than the wisdom of mankind, have so lavishly, yet perhaps to their own prejudice, so continuously admired.

The queen's council determined to begin their operations in the district they were inhabiting. Zealous and able men were therefore sent, over Somerset, Dorset, and part of Wilts, to array the people who had been sometime preparing, and to collect also those of Devon and Cornwall. As in all these counties, their friends had been long training, an army was speedily assembled. They made Exeter their first point of rendezvous, where the queen and her son Edward joined them.

Edward saw this preparing attack to be of the most formidable character. He dispatched his friends to get fresh men from all quarters, and providing an ample supply of artillery, which he projected to make one of his principal means, he left London for

Windsor,

Windsor, on the 19th of April, and ordered all his forces to unite in that town¹¹. CHAP.
IV.

He observed, that his opponents were at present in an angle of the island, and to attain their object, must make one of three movements. They must either march direct through Salisbury to London; or along the sea coast of Hampshire, Sussex, and Kent, if they felt strong enough to bring him to an immediate battle; or if they doubted the expediency of this, and resolved first to combine a more overpowering force, they must move northward into Cheshire and Lancashire, receiving all the reinforcements in their way, which were preparing for them in Wales, by Jasper earl of Pembroke. The king's first point of difficulty was, to penetrate which of these measures they intended; for if, to defeat the last, he had marched hastily into the north, they would have reached London in his absence; and if, to guard that vital part, he kept too near his capital, it would be impossible to prevent them from uniting all their northern resources. His determination and his interest were, to bring them to battle as soon as possible, whatever was their numerical force, as that would be only augmented by delay; and he found the country to be yet so mistrustful of the issue, that few of the gentry had moved to his assistance. The balance of the two houses still hung too even for the large proprietors to risque confiscation and attainder, by taking part with him. His exile had so astonished his old supporters, that its paralyzing effect had not yet gone off. A throne so easily lost and won, was too unstable to be linked to. Edward had, therefore, with him, all the army he could now expect. It was select and determined, but not numerous; and the sooner he could bring it into action with his antagonists, the greater were his chances of success.

But the Lancastrian leaders were as aware of the situation and interests of both parties as he was. They saw that they placed him in a dilemma, and they prepared to execute either of the two possible

¹¹ Harl. MSS.

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possible plans, of marching to London or to the north, according as his movements opened the greatest advantage.

Both parties were thus watching, and desirous to mislead and out-general the other; and that which committed the first fault, would probably lose the crown, they so mortally struggled for.

The king made Windsor castle his primary position, as the most convenient spot for proceeding from, either to the west or north. It gave him also the opportunity, in the celebration of the feast of St. George, to excite the warlike spirit of his army. He reasoned, that if the friends of Henry should finally determine to go northward to increase their forces, they must pass the Severn, either at Gloucester, Tewkesbury, or more remotely at Worcester. He therefore kept his eye on those places as his future points of march, if he should really find that they abandoned the plan of surprizing the metropolis¹².

The queen's generals perceived, that to reach London, they must draw him further from it: and to join their friends in the north, they must attract his attention elsewhere, and create an uncertainty in his mind as to their ultimate object. With this view, they sent parties in various directions: some from Exeter to Shaftesbury, as if they aimed at the coast line of movement: some to Salisbury, as if the shortest road to London was the way selected; while they moved their main body to Taunton and Glastonbury, and from thence to Wells, ready to dart forward, to such of these two great ends, as the king's motions should leave vacant. Still further to perplex him, they sent advanced parties to Yeovil, and gave the people to understand that they meant to advance by Oxford and Reading to London, or to surprize the king at some great advantage.

But Edward was not to be deluded from his steady guard. If they came to seek him, they were welcome, as he desired a speedy battle more than they did. Hence no threat of attacking him, could

¹² Harl. MSS.

could alter his measures. His scouts were alert in hovering about their head quarters: and when he heard of their thinking of Oxford, he began to suspect that their determination was settling for the northern movement. He therefore left Windsor, the 24th of April, the morning after St. George's day, and proceeded leisurely to Abingdon, quite prepared to counter-march on his capital, if his change of position should tempt them to resume that point of action. He did not enter Abingdon till the 27th of April, and found them still at Wells. It then became his wisest policy to move towards them a little to the north, to increase his power of intercepting them on that road, without so far departing from London, as to let them outstrip him if they again took that direction. With this view, on the 28th and 29th, he moved to Cirencester. There he heard, that on the next day they would be at Bath, and on the following, advance upon him, and take the chances of the field. This news was on such authority, that he marched three miles out of the town to a spot convenient for the struggle, put his men into fit array, and awaited their coming¹³.

But he expected them in vain: the threat was but to mask their real purpose. To discover this he moved to Malmesbury, nearer to their camp, and found them on the full march to Bristol, then a strong walled town, where they obtained great supplies of men, money, and cannon.

They now declared they would give him battle at Sodbury, then reckoned to be nine miles from Bristol. They sent parties to take their ground on Sodbury Hill; and this was so publicly done, that the king could not doubt their intentions; and on Thursday, the 2d of May, marched forward to this point, to take the chances of the conflict.

But when he reached the lines they had marked out, he found no enemy. He sent men to scour the country, but could gain no intelligence of their motions. They had so effectually deceived him, that they

¹³ Harl. MSS.

they had gained upon him the march they had projected: and uncertain whether they were making a forced advance to London, or to the Severn, he was obliged to pause that night in a valley between the hill and Sodbury, anxiously awaiting some certain information about them.

At length, soon after three in the morning, he obtained correct intelligence, that they were on the high road to Gloucester, through Bardsley. He summoned an immediate council of war, to determine whether he should try to arrest their passage over the Severn at Gloucester, or Tewkesbury. But it was clear, that they must be at Gloucester before he could reach it. He therefore dispatched trusty messengers to the son of lord Beauchamp, who held the castle of Gloucester for him, commanding him to defend it faithfully, and assuring him, that he was following them with a speed that must soon overtake them. His message got into Gloucester in time to save it. The queen soon presented her forces before it. They had marched all the night and morning to surprize it. Their friends in it were numerous, and they projected either to have defended it against the king, or to have passed through it into Herefordshire, where Pembroke from Wales, and all their friends from Cheshire and Lancashire, on whom they much depended, could have joined them, with numbers that they thought would be irresistible¹⁴.

Hence, on Friday morning, the 3d of May, at ten o'clock, they reached the gates of Gloucester, and demanded admission. The governor, knowing of the king's pursuit, repressed their adherents in the town, manned the walls, and refused to surrender. They menaced the town with an assault. But he calculated, that they would not venture on that, with the king on their rear, and was not intimidated. The queen's leaders then held a hasty council. Their sagacious movement was defeated. It was manifest, that there was not time to spare for an attempt to take the town by storm,

¹⁴ Harl. MSS.

storm; and that it would be wiser to proceed, without resting, to Tewkesbury, where they would find an unobstructed passage. The decision was judicious, and they continued their course to that place, which they reached about four in the afternoon on the same day.

But they had now marched, in that day and the night before, thirty-six miles, without rest, in a foul country, all through lanes and stony ways, and among woods, without any good refreshing, and most of them on foot: so that when they entered this town, they were so exhausted by want of sleep and food, and by fatigue, that they could proceed no farther. The horses and horsemen were as weary as the infantry. All demanded refreshment and repose. The queen, as a woman, looking first for safety and escape, desired to put the river between her and her indefatigable adversary. But to this it was objected, that if he was so near, to cross the river would be of no avail. If they were able to pass it, he could also follow: and for him to attack them when disordered, and only more wearied by the movement, was to make them his more certain prey. It was wiser to take a strong position where they were, and to recruit themselves for a combat that was now inevitable, than to take dastardly measures that would unman their spirits, destroy their unanimity, discourage their adherents, and but facilitate their destruction. It was impossible now to proceed without fighting; and they had only to prepare to give the battle in the way most advantageous to themselves¹⁵.

There seems nothing unsound or treacherous in this decision; baffled at Gloucester, and so closely pursued, they were somewhat like sir John Moore at Corunna; they were pushed to a necessity of fighting for their own safety; and, being superior in numbers, a strong position was better, in their state, than a passable river. This position was chosen with great judgment. It was a large field in an enclosure, even with the extremity of the town. The houses

and

¹⁵ Harl. MSS.

and the abbey were behind them; in front, and upon every side, were muddy lanes and deep ditches, with many hedges, besides hills and valleys. It was a place, "as right evil to approach as could well have been devised." Here they pitched their camp, procured the refreshments they needed, and with due precautions, provided for a restoring repose.

Edward, on the same morning, had early advanced his banners, divided his host into three battalions, sent off aforeriders and scourers on every side, and thus, in fair array, with his ordnance following, took his line of pursuit through the champaign country called Cotteswold. His infantry were about 3,000: the rest were cavalry. It was a very hot day; but he felt, like Bonaparte at Eckmul and Ulm, that the success he aimed at depended as much upon legs as upon arms; and he marched straight forward, on the nearest line to Tewkesbury, without intermission, as he rightly supposed they would be driven to this point. His people found, in all their way, neither horse meat nor man's meat, nor even drink for their animals, except at one small brook, which their carriages soon spoilt. But the king allowed no rest. He kept by this means within six or seven miles of his opponents, with the advantage of marching through an open country, while they were forcing their way through woods. He reached Cheltenham, as they got to Tewkesbury. He soon learnt that they were taking the field, and had determined to give battle. Though his men had travelled above thirty miles that day, he permitted them only to wait to share what victuals he had brought with him, and set forward immediately to Tewkesbury; and pursuing his usual plan, of placing himself at night as near his enemy as possible, he lodged his army within three miles of their encampment¹⁶.

It was an anxious night to all, but especially to the queen and her son, then a prince of great promise, in his seventeenth year. Her friends were sanguine, brave, zealous, and more numerous: but

¹⁶ Harl. MSS.

but it was their last stake: a crown—death—or an imprisonment for life, were the alternatives in prospect: the most brilliant advantages of life, or its bitterest misfortunes. Edward was inferior in force: as she believed, in right—but when had Edward failed? A mysterious fortune seemed to hang about his sword, which always gave it the triumph. Would it now desert him? With the aid of her lords, she had prospered against others at Ludlow, at St. Albans, and at Wakefield: but she had never beaten him. Did it suit the plans of Providence to give the crown to her persecutor, or to her husband and herself? The house of Lancaster had indeed usurped the diadem, but it had worn it for three reigns. Was it now to lose it for ever? Such were the recollections that made the dreadful night of suspense and alarm still more gloomy. All was fearful and uncertain. Margaret could not partake the confidence of her friends, and awaited the terrible dawn that was advancing, with a solicitude that nothing could appease.

As soon as light appeared, Edward arranged his army into three divisions. He gave the van to Gloucester, ever desiring to be the foremost; he led himself the centre; and appointed his queen's brother, the marquis Dorset, and lord Hastings, to conduct the rear. He then displayed his banners, blew up his trumpets, and marched straight upon his antagonists. The duke of Somerset and his brother took the command of the most advanced division of the Lancastrians; the prince, with the martial prior, and lord Wenlock, were stationed in the centre; and the earl of Devon was appointed to the rear. The queen, with her son, rode about the field animating her partizans, and promising the most lavish rewards: and the combat soon began¹⁷.

Saturday,
4 May 1471.
Battle of
Tewkesbury.

Edward saw that his opponents were "in a marvellous strong ground, right difficult to be assailed." But he directed Gloucester to attack. The duke found, in the front of their field, such protecting lanes and deep dikes, with so many hedges, trees, and bushes,

¹⁷ Harl. MSS.

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bushes, that he could not break into their lines, so as to come hand to hand; he, therefore, ordered up the artillery, and directed it with accompanying flights of arrows, so fiercely on Somerset's position, and with such heavy loss to him, as to provoke or compel him to become himself the assailant. Somerset determined upon a flank movement on his enemies; and by certain paths, which he had before surveyed, but which were to the king's party unknown, rushed on the king's centre, with so violent an assault, so unlooked for from that quarter, that he drove it to a distance from the lines up a hill, that was near them. Charging then the duke of Gloucester's division, he pressed that with equal advantage, and seemed to have begun the accomplishment of a certain victory.

But the military judgment of Edward had taken one precautionary measure, from which he now reaped an unexpected benefit. He had observed a wood near his enemies' lines; and supposing they might plant a body in ambush within it, he had chosen out 200 spearmen, and placed them in a mass, about a quarter of a mile from the field, with a charge to watch that corner of the wood, and with a discretion, if no danger issued from it, to act as occasion should suggest to them would be most expedient.

The Lancastrians did not occupy the wood as he had anticipated, and perhaps, by not doing so, had neglected an advantage. But this party finding no employment from that quarter, and observing the duke of Somerset's successes, saw an opportunity of acting upon the flank of his attack, of which they speedily availed themselves: for while Edward was rallying on Somerset, they charged aside upon the duke's rear, and threw it into confusion by an assault as unforeseen as unintelligible.

Sudden movements frequently decide battles, because no remedy as immediate is thought of or can be applied. The king gave no time for recollection; he pressed vigorously on; and the Lancastrian division was in disorder, and from disorder turned into flight, before

before Somerset could stop the panic, or make any other movement to prevent its consequences. They fled into the park, into the meadow, into the lanes and the ditches, wherever they thought it likely to escape the danger. The king, with his accustomed energy, rushed from them upon prince Edward's centre, which, shaken by the confusion of the foremost battalions, soon gave way to his determined attack. Gloucester and Hastings exerted themselves to complete the ruin. The Lancastrians broke in every part; many were drowned in a mill stream in the meadow; many sought refuge in the church, the abbey, and the town. Somerset, thinking, perhaps justly, that Wenlock did not properly support him, is stated to have cloven his head with a battle axe—an insane act of resentment, which left the centre battalions without a leader. The prince was taken as flying towards the town, and was slain in the field¹⁸. The earl of Devon also fell, with several gentlemen. No victory could be more complete.

The king went immediately to the abbey, and, before the high altar, returned thanks for the momentous event to its great giver; and, with the true feelings of a royal heart and christian spirit, generously granted a free pardon to all who had taken refuge in the church and abbey. It was the only sincere mark of his gratitude to heaven that he could then display; and it was creditable to his magnanimity, that he suffered no human passions to prevent it.

But

¹⁸ Harl. MSS. It is important to remark, that this authentic MS. not only gives no sanction to the popular tale of Edward's calling the prince before him, rebuking him for his opposition, and striking him for his answer, and of Gloucester and Clarence stabbing him; but declares, that he was slain in the field. Another author, still in MS. Bernard Andreas, who wrote the life of Henry VII. in 1509, about 38 years after this battle, and in the highest style of compliment to this Lancastrian king, speaking of the death of this young prince, though he

abuses Richard most zealously for his other crimes, yet does not hint that Richard had stabbed the son of Margaret. On the contrary, his words imply, like the present author's, that he fell in the battle. His expressions are, 'Is enim ante Bernardi campum in Theoxberye praelio, *belligerens* ceciderat.' Dom. A. 10, p. 145. The extract from the Chronicle of Tewkesbury, copied by Stowe, mentions, that the prince was slain in the field of Gaston, beside Tewkesbury. Harl. MSS. 545. p. 102.

But he soon checked the noble emotions of his instinctive nature, and allowed a base minded policy, or baser persuasions from the self-interest of others, who looked only to attainders and confiscations, to degrade him to the meanest act of dishonorable cruelty of which a sovereign could be guilty. He forfeited his royal word, and re-called his forgiveness. He appointed the dukes of Gloucester and Norfolk, as a military tribunal, to determine on the fate of those he had pardoned: and these judges, without mercy, two days afterwards, when all the tumultuous agitations of the day had subsided, coolly doomed them to immediate execution. The duke of Somerset was among the number. The prior of St. John, and fourteen other knights and gentlemen, were beheaded with him, in the market-place of Tewkesbury. This lesson of cruelty and breach of promise in Edward, was not lost on his brother, whom he made its executioner; and his own children were destined to be victims of the same vices, from this brother's hands.

The unhappy Margaret had retired to a religious house in the neighbourhood, when the sanguinary conflict began, but was discovered soon after its determination. Edward moved, on the 11th of May, to Coventry, to proceed against the numerous bodies that were rising in the north; to whom her unfortunate friends were so rapidly marching, when Edward's celerity had arrested them: but the news of his decisive victory occasioned them to disperse, from their own prudence. The queen was brought to him at Coventry, and was ordered into imprisonment at the Tower. The earl of Northumberland came there to assure him, that all was now tranquil. But these tidings were immediately followed by others from the south, that a new assailant had started up, whom neglect might make formidable¹⁹. What he attempted, shewed the wisdom of Edward's activity; for if delay had permitted

¹⁹ According to the Tewkesbury Chronicle, Lady Anne was taken with her. Harl. MSS. N° 545, p. 102.

permitted all these hostile parties to have acted in concert, no exertions, in the hesitating state of the country, might have been sufficient to have preserved him.

Warwick had commissioned the illegitimate son of lord Falconbridge to keep and watch the channel. He became an active cruiser; and, co-operating with the Lancastrians in Kent, he found himself at the head of 16 or 17,000 men; and with these, on the 12th of May, eight days after the battle of Tewkesbury, appeared before the walls of London, and demanded the release of king Henry. So many persons in the capital were disposed to favor his attempt, that an earnest express was sent to Edward, urging his immediate presence. The servants and apprentices of the city, for the sake of plunder, were ready for an insurrection; and the king was informed, that to repress this new enemy, he would need a greater force than he had yet employed since his landing. As this required time to collect, he sent, without delay, on the 14th of May, a well selected body of 1,500 men, with the ablest commanders, to act till he came; and two days afterwards, he left Coventry, searching on all sides for succor.

Falconbridge
attacks London,
12 May.

The mayor and aldermen closing their gates against Falconbridge, he withdrew to Kingston, to see what measures would be most efficient for his object. He was a man of great talent and enterprize; but he found that the victory of Tewkesbury had decided the mind of the country, and that the nobility and gentry were now preparing to join the king in great numbers. His object of restoring Henry, was therefore impracticable; but he had an army that must be gratified by plunder, and he resolved to force the metropolis for that purpose, and then sail away to regions where he might enjoy the booty. With this desperate plan, he collected his ships and men, and sailed to London, and cannonaded it with great violence. The citizens were as active with their artillery. The partizan, now aiming to be the robber, set fire to London bridge, then a street of houses; and dividing his host

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into two parts, attacked the city at Aldgate and at Bishopsgate. His guns soon set the gates and adjoining mansions on fire, and 300 houses were involved in conflagration. But the defenders filled the streets with artillery, and he could not force the passage. Many knights and noblemen, from Essex and other parts, joined in the defence: and lord Rivers, who commanded the Tower, making a vigorous sally from a postern gate, while the mayor and nobility issued from another, the assailants were driven to the water-side, and to their shipping, while the city was burning in three places²⁰.

Falconbridge, by the 17th of May, had collected them again on Blackheath; but when he found that Edward was swiftly marching towards him, with numbers increasing as he came, he moved leisurely through Kent, to collect the means of a struggle with the king himself.

Edward
reaches Lon-
don, 21 May.

Edward entered London on the 21st of May, with 30,000 men: such was the effect of his great successes. He knighted the mayor and aldermen, with others, who had so bravely defended the city; but as Falconbridge was too active, and Kent too full of combustible materials to be left unguarded, he stayed only one day in London, and on the next, went with his whole army towards Canterbury²¹.

Falconbridge moved straight to Sandwich, where forty-seven ships obeyed his commands, and he fortified the town with great strength. But, when he learnt that the king had reached Canterbury, with a force so overpowering, he determined to use his means of offence only to obtain a pardon; and therefore sent to Edward, at that city, offering to deliver up all the ships and army, on the terms of grace and forgiveness. A long deliberation followed in the royal council, on this subject. Vindictive policy suggested punishment; but the resolution of Falconbridge was known; his means were yet great, and despair would make them greater; and having the command of the sea, and the possession of a haven,

he

²⁰ Harl. MSS.

²¹ Ib.

he could take all the chances of battle, and work all its mischief, and yet escape to produce new disquiets elsewhere. It was rightly deemed wiser to convert such an enemy into an ally: and the duke of Gloucester was sent to receive his submission, and assure his forgiveness. On the 26th of May, he delivered up all his vessels and the town²²: and thus ended the eventful struggles which attended Edward's restoration. In the short space of eleven weeks, from an exile, he had become a king, though his means had been scanty; the population generally hesitating or adverse, and the existing government and its friends, always opposing him with superior forces and zealous adherents.

Falconbridge
surrenders.

The great consumption of human life in these numerous conflicts, and their widely-diffusing calamities, strike painfully our imagination: and notwithstanding the attractions of their daring courage and vast exertions, excite our condemning sympathy. But it is a relief to the reason, if not to the heart, to consider, that as it is the violent and most empassioned, on both sides, who chiefly begin and uphold these contests, it is also they who press the foremost to grasp their advantages; to fight their battles, and to perish in their slaughter. The dying or disabled are usually those who volunteer to their fate, or who have been most instrumental in producing it; and bear no proportion to the more peaceful myriads, and sometimes millions, who, by taking no active part for either of the contending competitors, escape the personal miseries which every warring partizan confronts or participates; and who continue to enjoy that prolongation of life and tranquillity, that flow of social comfort, and domestic happiness; that approving conscience, and that applauding heaven, which principally contribute to our earthly beatitude. They who perish, suffer by their own choosing and spontaneous agency; while the humbler, the gentler, and the calmer; the more moderate, and the more contented; the

²² At Michaelmas following he was beheaded. 'His head was yesterday set upon

London bridge, looking into Kent-ward.
2 Fenn, 82.

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the religious; the better-reasoning; the less-interested, and the unambitious, decline both the prizes and the perils of scenes, so impossible to reconcile with philosophy, or with its diviner queen—unperverted Christianity. The benevolent taste will, indeed, regret, that even the violent, the restless, the vindictive, the proud, and the mercenary, should so torment and destroy each other; sacrificing an existence which they cannot renew, and daring consequences which no mortal can either calculate or avert: but as every man may abstain from being either of these characters, it is better for society, that they who choose to wield the homicidal weapons should be the principal victims. War is an evil so great, and its slaughter so abominable, that it would never outlive the flattery that disguises its deformities, nor the patronage that recommends it. If the rational would cease to praise it, and parents to value it as a profession, wiser modes of arranging national disputes would be adopted by statesmen: and national prosperity would flourish more uninterruptedly by the change. War has destroyed more kingdoms than it has saved; and will always produce far greater evils than it can prevent.

Henry's
death, 22d
May 1471,

During these transactions, king Henry died in the Tower, so early on the 22d of May, as that his body was on that day exhibited in St. Paul's church yard²³. Popular belief, excited by the partizans of Henry VII, apparently sanctioned by the violent death of Edward V, and perpetuated by the genius of Shakspear, has charged the duke of Gloucester with his murder. Modern doubters have questioned the justice of this imputation; and as the manuscript documents, quoted in this history, enable us to judge

²³ Stowe's transcript of Master Fleetwood's book dates Henry's death the 23d of May. His extract from Master Bell's book places it on the 22d of May, with these particulars: 'F dominical and Wednesday, the vigill and even of the Ascension, from the Toure of London he was browght deade throughe London, openly, while upon the Friday next after was had and carried unto th' abbey of Chertsey, where he lyeth buried.' MSS. Harl. N^o 545, p. 134. Fabian also mentions, that on the eve of Ascension day, his body was brought from the Tower to St. Paul's church, through the high street of the city. p. 505. As Easter-day was, in that year, on the 14th of April, Ascension-day must have been on the 23d of May, as in the years 1805 and 1816, and its eve was the 22d.

judge of it more soundly; we will attempt, with these before us, an impartial discrimination of the probable truth.

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Edward left Coventry on the 16th of May, and did not arrive at London till Tuesday, the 21st²⁴. He stayed but one day in the metropolis, and went with all his army in pursuit of Falconbridge²⁵. Gloucester had come with him to London, and departed with him into Kent, and, after conducting the negociations with Falconbridge, received the submission of this dangerous partizan on the 26th of May. On the only day that Edward stayed in London, he had to await and receive the congratulations of the metropolis, to welcome his nobility, to confer with his counsellors, to take refreshments himself, to station and supply his accompanying army, and to provide the necessaries, and make the arrangements, for their immediate advance into Kent. In all these deeds and preparations of state, council, festivity, and war, Gloucester was a principal person; and must have been as much employed as the king, during the only day that both were in London: and this was the day on the morning of which Henry died, if Edward stayed in the city all the 22d: but as they remained there only one day, and arrived on the 21st, the natural import of the words would seem to be, that the march into Kent was began on the 22d²⁶: but whether Edward and his brother quitted London on the day of Henry's death, or early the next morning, there does not seem to have been time for the perpetration of such an useless crime. It must be also remembered, that Gloucester was then but eighteen years of age—a time of life when a prince is not likely to be an assassin; and all the exigencies were over that could have tempted him to be so. The presence of so many noblemen as now came to congratulate

not killed by
Gloucester.

²⁴ Harl. MSS. This writer gives the day of the week, which shows the date of 21 May. to be correct.

²⁵ The words of the MSS. are, 'The king, incontinent, after his coming to London, tarried *but one day*, and went, with his whole army, after his said traitors, into Kent.'

²⁶ Edward was at Canterbury, with his army, on May 25. To have marched 70 miles, with all his military apparatus, by that time, makes it probable that he left London on the 22d.

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congratulate Edward, and the joyous movements of the pleased population, at his arrival from two great fields of decisive victory, increase the improbability, that a high-spirited youth, whom all were praising and applauding for his leading share of the triumphs, should have been either willing or able to have broke from all this bustle, acclamation, pomp, business, friends, and following crowds, to go into the Tower to commit the murder. At such a time he could have gone no where obscurely. The public eye of soldiers, nobility, or people, must have been upon him all that single day, which he passed in the metropolis. The incredibility of the tale is augmented by the circumstance, that queen Margaret had been brought up with Edward to London, and was at this very crisis lodged in the Tower. That the second most honored person in the kingdom should, amid the feelings of general gratulation, have committed the savage butchery of killing a husband, in the presence or immediate vicinity of his wife, is not to be credited without evidence the most manifest. But the Tower was at this moment under the military command of lord Rivers, one of the most gallant and applauded characters of that age of chivalry; between whom, as the queen's brother, and Richard, there always existed a political jealousy: and, therefore, it is not probable that Richard would, under his eye, have committed an act repulsive to the feelings of all men; and which Rivers would have most indignantly censured, and, if apprised of the intention, would have resisted. Hence we may consider this contemporary account as the true one: that Henry was so shocked at the tidings of the death of his son, the irretrievable defeats, and loss of his friends, and the captivity of his queen, that his frame sank under the effect of the sudden communication²⁷. He had been frequently shaken by illness

²⁷ This writer says, of the late disasters of Henry's family and friends, 'The certainty of all which came to the knowledge of the said Henry, being in the Tower, not having afore that, knowledge of the said matters. He took it to so great despite, ire, and indig-

nation, that of pure displeasure and melancholy, he died.' Harl. MSS. This author's work shews that he wrote it while Edward IV. was alive, and about this very time; for he says, 'Thus was finished the re-entry of our sovereign lord Edward IV. With the help of

illness before: and his meek and kind temper had an affectionate sensibility, which sorrow without remedy, and despair without hope, occurring in an unexpected accumulation, may have fatally overpowered. At eighteen, Richard could not have formed designs on the crown, with Edward in full health, only thirty years of age, and having frequent children; and with an elder brother, also married, to precede him. Both of these were more interested to destroy Henry than he was. Yet it is not likely, that either of them would have chosen or could have used such a moment for such a purpose²⁸.

of Almighty God, which from his beginning *hitherto* hath not failed him, *in short time* he *shall* appease his subjects through all his royalme, that peace and tranquillity shall grow and multiply in the same, from day to day.' Harl. MSS. p. 48.

²⁸ The suspicion, or belief, of some of the old writers, that he was murdered, may have had some foundation, without our referring it to Gloucester or to Edward. His unfortunate reign had been productive of such calamities to many, that there could be no deficiency of furious spirits, in that vindictive age, who would desire to gratify their resentments by his blood. His friend Blackman mentions two facts, which seem to be of this description. One man struck him a violent blow on his neck with a weapon, meaning to

have dashed out his brains, or to have beheaded him. The mild king bore it patiently, and only exclaimed, 'Forsooth, forsooth, ye do foully to smite so a king anointed.' p. 301. Another person, while he was in the Tower, stabbed him in the side, and then, thinking he had killed him, fled away. This was before Henry's short restoration. During that period, this assassin was taken and brought to the king, on his throne, who was then convalescent, and who immediately pardoned him, p. 302. As this last attack, from its being mentioned that Henry was then only getting well, could have occurred but a few months before his actual death, it may be that which occasioned the notion of his being murdered. Indeed, the weakening effects of it may have contributed to his demise.

HISTORY OF ENGLAND.

CHAP. V.

DEATH OF CLARENCE. FACTIONS IN EDWARD'S COURT. HIS
WARS WITH FRANCE. HIS DEATH, AND CHARACTER.

BOOK II.

Fall of
Clarence.

EDWARD reigned about twelve years after his restoration. The principal events of this period may be arranged under four classes. The destruction of Clarence. The factions in his court. His wars with France. And his death and personal character.

The great earl of Warwick had left his rich possessions the inheritance of his two daughters. Clarence having married the eldest in 1472, his brother Richard, the duke of Gloucester, wished the hand of Anne, the youngest. Clarence, aware that a division of the heritage must follow her nuptials, disguised and concealed her. She had been contracted, but not married, to the prince Edward, who fell at Tewkesbury¹: and Gloucester, who became
twenty

¹ All our historians speak of this lady Anne, as actually married to prince Edward; and hence Shakspear's satirical scene, of Richard, the alleged murderer of her assumed husband, courting and winning her. But it is clear, from the MSS. before quoted, p. 327, that she was not actually married to the prince, when her father left France. It was an alliance required by Warwick, in July 1470, and

refused by Margaret. She at last assented to it in August, not for its solemnization at that time, but only as a conditional contract. The prince *was* to marry her, if Warwick recovered the kingdom for him. But though Warwick drove out Edward in October, yet Edward, in the following March, recovered his throne; and Warwick fell, before the prince could land in the following April, to
perish

twenty years of age in October 1472, desired both her person and rightful fortune. He discovered her in the dress of a cook-maid, and carried her to St. Martin's sanctuary². The quarrel between the brothers, on this subject, occasioned the king to remonstrate with Clarence, who forgot both equity and his own honor so far as to say, "He may have my lady sister-in-law, if he will—but we will part no livelihood³." Richard married her, though, apparently, with some informality⁴; and the pecuniary struggle between him and Clarence ended, in 1474, in an act of parliament, partitioning the inheritances of the ladies between them, and giving the husbands a life interest in the shares of their wives, if they survived them⁵. The chronicler of the day marks this dissention as an incurable affair⁶.

Three years afterwards, a personal difference arose between Clarence and the king, which ended in a catastrophe that has disgraced Edward's memory. The duke, by degrees, began to withdraw from the king's festive parties, council, and court. He was supposed to be affronted at the resumption of some grants. But a more important cause of dissention arose. Clarence becoming a widower, his sister Margaret, with whom he was the favorite, projected to unite him with the heiress of Burgundy⁷. The queen desired

perish at Tewksbury, on the 4th of May: so that the condition which Margaret annexed to the marriage did not take place, nor is there any contemporary account of its actual celebration; nor does there seem to have been time for it; and, with Margaret's adverse feelings, it is not likely that her son, then but 16, would have been allowed to shew much attention to the lady, who was, in the mean time, left under the vigilant care of the queen.

² Croyl. 557.

³ 2 Fenn, p. 92.

⁴ I infer the irregularity from the statute, expressing the possibility, 'If they should be hereafter divorced, and, after the same, be lawfully married;' also, 'If divorced, and,

after that, he do effectual diligence and continual devoir, by all convenient and lawful means, to be lawfully married to the said Anne, and during her life be not wedded to any other woman.' P. Rolls, 6, p. 101.

⁵ P. Rolls, 6, p. 100, 101. This partition reduced the fortune of the widowed countess of Warwick to a small jointure. One of the last things we hear of her is, that she was conveyed northward, out of Beverley sanctuary, by sir James Tyrrel, who became so notorious under Richard III. 'men say, by the king's assent, whereto some men say, that the duke of Clarence is not agreed.' 2 Fenn, 145.

⁶ Croyl. 557.

⁷ Ib.

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desired this great match for her own brother, lord Rivers⁸; and Edward, jealous that Clarence should become possessed of so much power, as the dukedom of Burgundy would give him, opposed the alliance with him. Each began to look upon the other with no fraternal aspect: and Clarence, unable to contain his resenting feelings, took the occasion of Burdett, one of his esquires, being condemned for necromancy and treason, to assert the man's innocence, before the great council of the kingdom. The king, yielding to his suspicions and indignation, summoned him to appear to a charge of treason against himself, and arrested him. The direful debate was agitated in the ensuing parliament, and the discussion was personal and public. The king forgot nature and decorum so far as himself to arraign Clarence, and Clarence answered his brother. Witnesses came forward, who seemed rather to act the part of accusers than evidence. The duke offered personal combat⁹. But the parliament pronounced him guilty of high treason, on a strange medley of charges¹⁰. His execution was ordered, and the duke of Buckingham was appointed to superintend it¹¹. But this was delayed, perhaps from better feelings emerging in Edward's mind, till the speaker of the commons came to the house of lords, to require it to take place¹². On the 17th of

⁸ Hall, 327.

⁹ Croyl. 558.

¹⁰ The act of attainder in 1477, after mentioning the previous conduct which the king had forgiven, accused him of contriving the destruction of the king and his issue, and to subvert the government; of causing his servants to sow sedition; of giving his retainers money to assemble the people, and feast them venison dinners, and to persuade them that his esquire Burdett had been wrongfully put to death; of saying, that the king poisoned his subjects by necromancy; of declaring, *that the king was illegitimate*, from the incontinency of his mother, and had taken his livelihood from him, and intended

to consume him as a candle perishes in burning; of inducing several of the king's subjects to swear fealty to himself; and of attempting to get a strange child into his castle, to pass for his son. Parl. Rolls, v. 6, p. 193—5.

¹¹ This appears from the commission, dated 7 February 1478, which, after reciting the conviction of Clarence, and that justice was a virtue of the Most High, which the king was bound to follow, first, for his own security; secondly, for the defence of the church; and thirdly, for the public good,—appoints the duke of Buckingham seneschal, for the execution of the judgment. Parl. Rolls, 6, p. 195.

¹² Croyl. 562.

of February 1478, his death occurred¹³, in private. Its mode was concealed¹⁴; but the opinion prevailed, that he was drowned in a butt of malmsey wine¹⁵. That he was one of the idols of the populace¹⁶, may have hastened his fate. The king, when the act was irreparable, felt that he had killed a brother; and endeavored to ease his convicting conscience by inculpating others. Whenever any one sued to him for the pardon of another, he would exclaim, "O unfortunate brother! for whose life not one creature would make intercession¹⁷!" It was a crime of jealousy and resentment, which was aggravated by the legal charges that attempted to vindicate it. But his condemnation by the parliament involves both the houses in the production of his death.

It has been usual with our historians to impute the destruction of Clarence to the machinations of his brother, the duke of Gloucester; on whom, after the accession of Henry VII. it became fashionable to charge every crime. But there are grounds on which it may be ascribed to a very different party. There is a record, which speaks, at this time, of great differences¹⁸ between Clarence and the queen's brother, lord Rivers. His confiscated estates were chiefly given to Rivers¹⁹; and the wardship and marriage of his heir were granted to the queen's son, marquis Dorset²⁰. So that the persons who immediately profited by his death, were not so much Gloucester or his friends, as the queen's party, their great political antagonists. Besides the queen's efforts to gain the heiress of Burgundy for her brother Rivers, it is also to be remarked, that the act of attainder charges Clarence with

purposing

¹³ Fab. 510.

¹⁴ Croyl. 562.

¹⁵ Comines, 1, p. 65, Fabian, p. 510, Hall, p. 326, and Grafton, 742, mention this fate.

¹⁶ Croyland says, that on Clarence's death, 'all the idols were now exterminated, on which the eyes of the people, ever desirous of novelty, were accustomed to be turned.' Croyl. 562. Warwick and Clarence were

idols of this sort, and hence the royal jealousy of the latter.

¹⁷ Hall, 326; and Croyland says, 'sæpissime pœnitens facti.' 562.

¹⁸ 'Grandia gravamina.' Cal. Rot. Pat. 18 Ed. IV., p. 323.

¹⁹ Cal. Rot. p. 323. Though a few were given to lord Howard, and Gloucester. Ib.

²⁰ Cal. Rot. p. 325, 6.

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purposing treason against the queen and her son, and also against the great part of the nobles of this land²¹. If the queen did not destroy him, she at least did not interfere to save him; and, as her influence with Edward was persuasive to the last, Gloucester was not more implicated than she was, in not becoming his intercessor. But as Clarence was opposed in his wishes by her and her brother, and had been deprived of part of the king's grants to him, it is probable, that he was becoming hostile to the family interest of her relations, and may have been a victim to their vindictive policy.

Divided state
of Edward's
court.

The factions in the court and councils of Edward, from his restoration to his grave, embittered his own peace, ensured new commotions to the nation, and produced the destruction of his own dynasty. Pursuing a wise object in an unwise manner, he continued his plan to emancipate the crown from the control of the aristocracy, by the steady elevation of the queen's family. As the great families of Warwick and Somerset, who had commanded the west and north of England, had fallen in the civil war²², the main impediment to his wishes seemed removed. But other nobles had arisen, with the same opposing feelings, on this subject, in their stead: and Hastings, Buckingham, Stanley, Howard, and others, were nearly as proud and aspiring, though less formidable, than the Warwicks, Salisburys, and Montagues had been. But the dread of Edward's military exploits kept every one from revolt; and he thought, by inviting the heads of both parties to his court, and by sharing the bounties of the crown between them, he could ensure a peaceful reign and appease their animosities. This policy procured a temporary pacification, while he held the sceptre; but left all the angry passions boiling in their breasts, and waiting the season of a safe explosion. Envy, jealousy, and ambition, never forgive. Favours nourish, but do not satisfy

²¹ Parl. Rolls, 6, p. 193. That it was 'kindled and set afire by the queen and her blood,' is one of Hall's suppositions. 326.

²² Comines, 1, p. 65.

satisfy them. Continual strifes arose to produce increased hatred; and this fixed a mutual fear and distrust in all. The feuds were at one time so high, that the king arrested his favorite Hastings, on some quarrel with Rivers, and sent him to the Tower, where that nobleman daily expected his death warrant²³. That a great hostility had long existed between this nobleman and the queen's family, is emphatically declared by a contemporary of consideration²⁴. A long and wiser life might have cemented the two parties; but Edward's premature death, while their competitions and mistrust were in full vigor, only ensured the calamities that soon pursued his own children and the queen's relations. He left these, and the ancient nobility, in the state of as complete a struggle for life and death, as had formerly existed between his own family interest and the house and friends of Lancaster²⁵.

The reign and deceitful policy of Louis XI. had diminished the power of the great vassals of the French monarchy; and gradually raised the crown to a superiority and effective influence, and increasing command, which it never lost in that country till the revolution of the last century. Louis had surmounted or defeated every confederacy against it, when, in 1473, Edward appeared earnest for an invasion of France. He stated his intentions from the throne. Many eloquent orations were spoken in parliament, to excite the warlike fever. The national pulse began to beat with accordant

His hostilities
with France.

²³ Sir Thomas More mentions, that he had been accused to Edward by Rivers, the queen's brother. p. 206.

²⁴ Croyl. 565. He describes himself as one of the king's privy councillors, a doctor in canon law, and one of the commissioners sent to recover Calais in 1471. p. 557.

²⁵ It is gratifying, amid the bloodshed of Edward's reign, to recollect, that during its latter part, the ART OF PRINTING was introduced into England, and the first printing-press established in Westminster, by W. Caxton. The precise year cannot be determined; but it was between 1471 and

1477. The first book from his press, which has the year and place of printing subjoined, was the one of lord Rivers, mentioned hereafter. This is dated 1477. The connection of great events with common incidents is curious. It was the marriage of Edward's sister that occasioned Caxton to go to Burgundy, as part of her suit; and there he became acquainted with this invaluable art, then recently discovered: so that Margaret's nuptials led to the first establishment of printing in England. The tale of the archbishop Bouchier's introducing it, is neither believed nor authenticated.

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accordant emotion; 13,000 archers, and liberal subsidies, were granted. The new financial measure of requested benevolences, or voluntary contributions, produced a full exchequer²⁶. A peace, to secure the northern borders, was completed with Scotland²⁷: and arrangements for his co-operation were settled with headstrong Burgundy, on whose supporting movements the brilliancy of the expected success would depend. The high-road to his new temple of fame thus prepared, in June 1475, Edward passed over to Calais, and entered France with a splendid and powerful army, glowing with English vigor, and confident hope²⁸.

But happily for France, the final achievement depended on Burgundy's zealous concurrence; and this restless, ambitious, arrogant, unteachable, presumptuous, brave, but untractable duke, had at this juncture, embroiled himself, unnecessarily, with the Germans, and was unwisely besieging the petty town of Nuz, near Cologne, as a step in the prosecution of his great projects of aggrandizement²⁹, when England's gallant army appeared on the plains of France. The duke hated Louis XI. and had engaged to co-operate with Edward; but his pride could not submit to meet him, as the repulsed assailant of an inconsiderable fortification, and he persisted in his attacks upon it, although its resolute and successful defence baffled all his exertions. In vain Edward twice sent

²⁶ Croyl. 558. Parl. Rolls, 6, p. 4.

²⁷ After the feeble effort made by the Scots to assist Margaret, in 1463, her defeat at the battle of Hexham occasioned a truce between the two countries, to be made in 1464, for fifteen years, which was afterwards prolonged to 1519. Commissioners were appointed, in the interval, to adjust the differences which arose from the conflicts of the borderers; and in 1474, a contract of marriage was settled between James, the prince of Scotland, and Cecilia, the youngest daughter of Edward IV., both children, which did not take effect. Henry's Hist. Engl. V. 9. Pinkert. Hist. Scot. V. 1.

²⁸ Croyl. 558. Comines mentions, that he was attended by the flower of the English nobility, being 1,500 persons, in full armor, and each with several horsemen in their retinue; 15,000 archers on horseback, and a great number of infantry, with artillery. There was not one useless person in the army; and 3,000 men besides were to have been landed in Bretagne. 1, p. 329.

²⁹ Comines says, 'If he took Nuz, he meant, after capturing two or three more towns that would have blocked up Cologne, to have conquered all the country, from the Rhine to Holland. V. 1, p. 310.

sent lord Rivers to intreat him to raise the siege. In vain the apostolic legate, and the king of Denmark, endeavored to negotiate a peace between the duke and the emperor. His answer was, that his honor rested upon the capture of the place, and he would listen to no other terms³⁰; till the emperor's overpowering army advancing, he was driven from the siege with disgrace³¹: and fighting the Germans soon afterwards, with an inferior force, against the advice of his best officers, he lost his bravest troops in a ruinous defeat³².

During this infatuated conduct, Louis, who dreaded Edward's warlike talents, but knew the weaknesses of his character, and saw the complexion of his court, profited by Burgundy's absence: and by very conciliatory overtures, by the most flattering attentions, and by a profusion of costly gifts³³, to the chief lords, and even counsellors of the king, Louis persuaded him to change his warlike purposes, into a friendly negotiation. A truce for seven years,

³⁰ Comines, 317.

³¹ Ib. 300, and 316. He lost 4,000 soldiers at this siege. Comines, in simple language, gives the unvarnished truth, which Hall has exaggerated into a dramatic romance, in the old style of chivalry. p. 308—19.

³² Comines, 438—40. This author, who knew him well, describes him as full of self-love and arrogance, always attributing his successes to his own wisdom and conduct; insatiably eager for fame, and ambitious to imitate the kings and heroes of antiquity: therefore always in wars, and ever forming extravagant designs. This conduct ruined his family and state. 1 Com. 443—6. His first victory, gained in 1465 against Louis XI. more by chance than conduct, but which he ascribed to himself, so inflated his mind, that he was never afterwards governed by any advice. Ib. 43.

³³ To the disgrace of the king's counsellors at that time, we read, that besides the 75,000 crowns paid to Edward, 16,000 more were distributed to his chancellor, master of the rolls, lord chamberlain, sir Thomas Montgomery, lord Howard, lord Cheney, marquis

Dorset, and others. To lord Howard, besides his pension, Louis gave, in two years, above 24,000 crowns in money and plate; and to lord Hastings, at one time, 1,000 marks in plate, and a pension of 2,000 crowns a year, being double of what he had before taken from Burgundy. Com. l. 6, c. 2, v. 2, p. 6, 7. This author, who was Louis's agent in some of these transactions, affirms, that Edward's 'lord chamberlain, chancellor, admiral, master of the horse, and several other great lords of England, were at the same time pensioners to the king of France.' Ib. Few sovereigns have bribed the ministers of their enemies with more publicity than Louis on this occasion. The moral coquetry of Hastings, in taking his pension, but refusing to give the French ambassador a receipt for it, is curious. He said, 'If you wish me to receive it, you may put it into my sleeve; but you shall have neither letter, nor acquittance for it, from me.' Com. ib. He was, perhaps, afraid of furnishing a legal document for a future impeachment. The others gave their receipts, 'which,' Comines adds, 'are still to be seen in the chamber of accounts at Paris.' Ib.

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years, an immediate payment of 75,000 crowns, the annual remittance of 50,000 crowns to England, and an engagement from Louis, that his eldest son should marry Edward's daughter Elizabeth, formed the terms of pacification³⁴. The conciliating annuity was for many years punctually sent³⁵; a sacrifice of policy, which, whether verbally called a tribute or a present, was meant to have the effect which it produced, of gratifying English pride, and of averting an English invasion³⁶.

This treaty laid one of the great beams of the structure of the French monarchy, that soon rapidly arose, to the astonishment, and almost to the command, of Europe. Vigorous hostilities would have disabled Louis XI. from pursuing or profiting by the progressive encroachments of his crafty policy; and have rescued Burgundy and Bretagne from that advancing absorption, which this pacification accelerated and ensured. Some, both in the council and parliament, urged Edward into a vigorous interposition³⁷. But seduced by his love of enjoyment, and interested friends³⁸, into inaction, the provinces of these two dukedoms were,

³⁴ The public papers on this treaty are in Rymer, v. 12, p. 14—20. The 50,000 crowns were to be paid in London, at Easter and Michaelmas, and the bank of the *Medicis* guaranteed the payment. p. 20. Louis also paid 50,000 crowns for the ransom of queen Margaret; and on the 13th November 1475, she was released, and sent to France. Thus, after above thirty years of harrassed greatness and vicissitudes, returning to the private life from which she had been taken.

³⁵ Rymer has printed the regular discharges for this payment, up to Easter 1482. The last receipt is dated 25 August. p. 136.

³⁶ Edward's army reached Calais, in its return from this expedition, on the 4th September 1475; and, on the 11th September, began to cross the sea to England. 5 Paston's Letters, p. 113. Comines remarks of Louis XI. that he understood breaking and dividing of leagues better than any prince he ever knew. He spared neither money nor pains, and ap-

plied them to both ministers and masters. p. 119. He allowed the English to call his pension, a tribute. Com. p. 6.

³⁷ Comines, p. 9 and 10.

³⁸ Comines' account is, 'King Edward was a voluptuous prince, wholly addicted to his pleasure and ease; and having been, in his former expeditions, reduced to great straits and necessities, he had no mind to involve himself in a new war. The 50,000 crowns being also punctually paid him, softened his heart, and hindered him from concerning himself in that affair. Besides, his ambassadors were always bribed, entertained so nobly, and left the French court so well satisfied, that no exceptions could be taken, though the answers of Louis were always uncertain, in order to gain time, assuring them, that in a few days he would send an embassy of his own, that would satisfy their master in every point.' Ib. p. 9.

were, by his indolent connivance, virtually surrendered to the ambition of the French king; and the foolish and meddling restlessness of the duke of Burgundy, greedy of fame, but unable to discern the true path to it, only hastened the catastrophe which it was his dearest interest to have prevented. Plunging into needless hostilities with the Swiss, while Louis was hovering around him, ever watching his day of self-sacrificing weakness, he lost, in one year, three battles, that consumed the military power of his state; and in the last, his life, when he had only a very young and unmarried daughter to succeed him. Louis, availing himself of her enfeebled condition, seized immediately on several of her towns. Edward, soothed with the hope of his daughter's aggrandizement, looked on without any other interference than sending ambassadors to mediate a peace for Burgundy. Louis spoke kindly, and treated them magnificently; but instead of abstaining from the gratification of his ambition, invited Edward to share the spoil with him. Edward did not disdain the partition; but wished Picardy, which adjoined Calais, instead of Flanders and Brabant, that had to be conquered, for his part. Louis preferred Picardy, for the same reasons which made the king of England desire it. And the heiress of Burgundy, finding herself between two plunderers, was advised to marry the archduke of Austria, to save some part of her pillaged inheritance³⁹.

In 1480, Edward demanded of Louis the solemnization of the covenanted marriage⁴⁰; and negotiated in behalf of the archduke⁴¹; and projected a marriage between his heir apparent, Edward, and the heiress of Bretagne⁴². But in 1481, doubts, too

³⁹ On the distress and conduct of this princess, see Comines, 1, p. 452, 469; V. 2, p. 1—3, and 13—23. She died in the fourth year after her marriage, after a fall from her horse. p. 21.

⁴⁰ On the 24th August 1480, he appointed commissioners to make this requisition. 12 Rym. 135.

⁴¹ In August 1481, Edward made an alliance with him, on condition of receiving from him the 50,000 crowns, if differences with Louis should suspend his payments; and he engaged to obtain of Louis a truce for the low countries, or to make war. 12 Rym. 123—133. He appointed a fleet to assist. Ib. 135.

⁴² 12 Rym. 172.

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1481.

too well founded, arose, whether the French king meant to fulfil this part of his contract. Edward had long been warned, that Louis was not sincere on this point. The ambassadors from the Austrian archduke, who had wedded the heiress of Burgundy, and those from Bretagne, strongly urged him to mistrust the French king, and to oppose his appropriation of Picardy⁴³. Edward and his queen were so intent on this settlement for their daughter, that they would not question the assurances of Louis, till they received the news, that the archduke's daughter had been finally selected, that France might have a chance of inheriting the rich provinces of Burgundy. Edward's luxurious habits, by unfitting his body for war, had favored the self-delusion, and in 1482, both the pension and alliance disappeared. His indignation at the deceit and disappointment roused him to resolve on a vindictive descent on France. Parliament was appealed to, and concurred; but not venturing to solicit its supplies, he exerted his influence with the clergy, and their convocation made a liberal grant⁴⁴. Warlike preparations were immediately commenced; and as that revengeful irritability, which formed one of Edward's increasing vices, now governed him⁴⁵, all the desolations of an unsparing war would have overspread France, and its fierce preparations and pursuit have perverted the English mind, and checked the better tastes and studies that were beginning to enlighten and to humanize it, if the superior government of human affairs had not, by one single incident, produced a different issue. In the midst of the king's earnest attentions to collect a competent force, a disease, one of the personal results of his voluptuous life, suddenly attacked him at Easter; and on the 9th of April

1483,

⁴³ Comines, V. 2, p. 68.

⁴⁴ The Croyland doctor greatly regrets this concession. 'O servile perniciosum exitium ecclesiæ.' 563.

⁴⁵ His immediate executions of the opposing nobility and gentry, whom he captured in his latter battles, show his vindictive

temper. Comines informs us, that it was his custom, when the victory was decided, to mount on horseback, and ride over the field, exhorting his men to save the common soldiers, but to put the gentry to the sword. p. 251. But in his battle of Towton, he ordered the common men not to be spared.

1483⁴⁶, before he had completed the forty-first year of age⁴⁷, he unexpectedly expired: exhorting his divided court, family, and cabinet council, to peace and harmony⁴⁸. His brother Richard was at that time in the north, returning from his Scottish expedition⁴⁹.

CHAP.
V.

1483.
Edward dies
9 April.

Edward had greatly desired and assiduously laboured to ally his daughters with the princes of Europe⁵⁰; but his premature death frustrated all the prospects of his parental pride. Excepting Elizabeth, the eldest, who gave with herself the best title to the throne of England, they were content to take their husbands from its rival aristocracy⁵¹.

The soul of Edward IV. united the most inconsistent qualities. At times an intellectual vigor flamed within him, that transcended all his competitors. Most daring in valor, tremendous in battle, and unexampled in English history for the frequency and completeness of his victories, the numbers or characters of his opponents,

Edward's
character.

⁴⁶ Croyl. 564.

⁴⁷ He was born 28th April 1442. W. Wyr. 462. That vexation at finding himself overreached by Louis may have assisted to derange his health, is probable. It was, then, the general opinion, that it killed him. Com. p. 71. That his festivities in France had given him a tertian ague, which now turned to a quartan, with an indissoluble melancholy, and a continual cold, is mentioned by Hall, p. 338. That a surfeit, from the indulgencies of a banquet, was the last immediate cause of death, is the most credible. Habington, fol. 4, p. 478.

⁴⁸ More ascribes to him a long speech on this subject. He may have expressed briefly such wishes, but not in the methodical or long oration of sir Thomas. p. 158—161.

⁴⁹ Disappointed at James III. the king of Scotland's son, not marrying his daughter Cecil, and provoked by his breaking his truce, on the solicitations of Louis XI., Edward signed a treaty with James's brother, the duke of Albany, and sent Richard, in June 1482, with an army into Scotland, to place Albany on the throne, and to annul the al-

liance between France and Scotland. Richard invested Berwick, and marched to Edinburgh, while his fleet, under sir Robert Ratcliffe, assisted his movements. Possessed of that city, he negotiated with the Scottish prelates and nobility. It was agreed, that Berwick should be surrendered; that the money received by James for Cecil's portion should be returned; that Albany should be reinstated in his possessions, and pardoned; and that Margaret, the king of Scotland's sister, should be married to lord Rivers, the queen's brother. See the public papers in Rymer, V. 12, p. 115, 7, 139, 140, 156—171.

⁵⁰ Besides those of Elizabeth to the dauphin, and Cecil to the Scottish prince, he commissioned persons, both in 1479 and 1482, to contract for Catherine to the infant of Spain, Rym. 110, and 146; and agreed to give Anne to the son of the archduke and heiress of Burgundy. p. 110.

⁵¹ Cecil married viscount Wells; Anne, the duke of Norfolk; and Catherine, the earl of Devonshire. Bridget became a nun.

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opponents, even when superior to his own, seemed only to multiply his energies, and ensure his successes. Never calculating or caring for the comparison of forces, or for the fame, veteran experience, skill, or resolution of his adversaries; he fought them the moment he could reach them, whoever they were, and whatever might be their strength, or however posted—and victory, even when least probable, always came, as if enchanted, to his banner. The fields of Barnet, Towton, and Tewkesbury, and his recovery of his lost crown, are splendid instances, that neither superiority of numbers, nor able generalship, nor the opposing chances of unfavorable circumstances, availed against him. Yet, although endowed with this extraordinary power of chaining, as it were, the fortune of war, and life's proudest greatness, to his standard; the paths of human slaughter, through which only he obtained and preserved his crown, and from which worldly glory always flowed so lavishly upon him, even in his almost beardless youth, were neither his choice, his ambition, nor his taste. Though fully equal to confront and master all the sublime horrors, and to supply all the wonderful exertions, of the most obstinate battle; and though darting into it with eagerness, as if its storm and lightnings had been his native element, and his heart's dearest delight: yet no sooner had he secured the triumph, than, as if disdaining and mocking what he had defied danger and death to acquire, the invincible hero transformed himself into the merry huntsman, or to the boon, effeminate, and thoughtless reveller. The uproar and groans of war, the exulting clarions, the national shouts of wild applause, and the compliments of admiring reason, had scarcely ceased their vibrations, when he flew from pursuing fame and regal grandeur, from pomp and acclamation, from neighing steeds, blazoned shields, rejoicing trumpets, and venerating nobles, to relax and luxuriate under the greenwood trees, with the mellow horn and the sylvan echoes of the chace; or to trifle
amid

amid lutes and minstrels⁵², in jessamined bowers or stately halls, with the living rose of the human countenance, or the pensive purity of its absence: happier from displaying a fine person in a gaudy robe, or from the animal enjoyments of a sated palate, than from exploits and renown, which few conquerors have merited or surpassed. He had scarcely soared to the highest regions of human glory, than he chose to abase himself to the debility and vulgar level of sensual luxuriousness⁵³. He was the ancient knight of invincible bravery, stepping down from his exalted pedestal to be the gay companion, the elegant coxcomb, and the voluptuous gentleman⁵⁴. He neither sought nor valued power for its gorgeous state or lordly command; but because he disliked inferiority, loved to be active, and wished to be praised. He was never arrogant, presuming, nor ambitious, though he had fought and conquered in nine pitched battles. No man ever rushed more cheerily to the conflict at the first sound of danger's trumpet, who was more delighted to forget all that he had atchieved, and to throw off his coat of mail for the silken robes of peace and courtesy; becoming, as if from innate instinct, the easy, pleasing, free, enjoying, laughing, gallant, and liberal friend, lover, and associate⁵⁵. Perhaps this

⁵² Edward was very liberal to his minstrels. To John Clyff, 'mareschal of the office of our minstrels,' he gave an annuity of ten marks, and the like sum to six other minstrels. 6 Parl. Rolls, p. 89. His tailor had a shilling a day, and five pounds a year for his house. Ib. 87. His name implies him to have been a foreigner—'Guillini Pault.'

⁵³ Comines says, he indulged himself in a larger share of ease and pleasures than any prince in his time. p. 252. Hence, perhaps, it was, that Warwick, as he says, looked on him as a very weak prince, p. 242; and Comines deemed him a man of no great management or foresight. Ib. 246.

⁵⁴ He used to say that he had three concubines, who excelled in three distinct pro-

perties. One was the merriest; another the wiliest; the third, the holiest harlot in his kingdom. The two last were greater personages; the first was Jane Shore. More, p. 212.

⁵⁵ The account of the personal observations of Comines is 'His thoughts were wholly employed upon the ladies, on hunting and on dressing. In his summer's hunting, his custom was to have tents set up for the ladies, where he treated them after a splendid and magnificent manner.' Ib. He was so devoted to his amusements, that when Warwick's invasion impended, he did not concern himself about it, but followed his hunting pleasures. Ib. 249.

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this combination of unexcelled valor and achievements, with all the blandishments and relaxing habits of the most indolent and refined voluptuary, tended more to dispossess the sturdy fighting spirit of ancient chivalry of its popularity, imitation, and fame, than all that wisdom or religion could have devised or attempted. He made those enervating and mind-changing habits fashionable and creditable, which were inconsistent with that bravery, strength, personal vigor, habitual dexterity, and desperate courage, which were essential to the true knight of battle. And the new character suiting better the new cultivation of intellect, and emerging moral sense, that were then dawning in society, the English gentleman began to emancipate himself from the fierce spirit of the warrior, and to undervalue his barbaric taste, and sanguinary occupations.

Edward's bodily gratifications⁵⁶ ruined his health, destroyed his personal beauty⁵⁷, depressed his spirits, enervated his soul, extinguished his patriotism, degraded his reputation, and abridged his life. His last years exhibited all their deleterious effects. He allowed Louis XI. to aggrandize France, to the peril both of England and Europe. He lowered himself to seek distinction by gaudy and effeminate apparel⁵⁸. Having benefited himself by the assistance of the friends of the reformation, his indolence allied him to the church, and he then abetted the persecutions of an hierarchy rather revengeful than bigotted⁵⁹. His administrative vigilance

⁵⁶ The doctor of Croyland describes him as devoted 'sodalitiis, vanitatibus, crapulis, luxui,' and 'cupiditatibus,' 564; and also, 'cupiditatibus et luxui nimis intemperanter indulisse.' Ib.

⁵⁷ Comines, who knew him, twice mentions, that he was the most beautiful prince that he had ever seen, or of his time, 246 and 252; but after his restoration, he grew very corpulent, 252. Croyland also mentions this un-beautifying circumstance: 'homine tam corpulento.' 49.

⁵⁸ At the Christmas festivities before his death, he appeared in a variety of most costly dresses of a form never seen before, which he thought displayed his person to superior advantage. Croyl. 563.

⁵⁹ 'Hereticorum severissimus hostis.' Croyl. 564; and after his restoration, we find in 1474, one John Goos, a loller, burnt at Tower Hill, for heresy. Fabian. 507.

vigilance was also degenerating into inquisitorial severity⁶⁰. Yet so much talent emerged in his government, amid all his voluptuous relaxations, that the nation increased in strength, riches, intellect, civilization, and literature, during his reign⁶¹: and even his vices could not make him unpopular. A personal courtesy, and even kindness of temper often added the affection of his subjects to their loyalty, and displayed the right-hearted character of a noble mind⁶². He was steady in the observances of ceremonial religion⁶³, though unable to govern himself by its morality. He was formed to be a great king, and he submitted to become a common one; rivalling only the reveller and voluptuary, and qualifying himself rather to be the companion of a Falstaff, than to place himself with the illustrious of all ages, who have obtained undying glory, by preferring, like Hercules, virtue to pleasure, self-government to self-indulgence, and the admiration of the wise and noble, to the flattery of the courtesan, the epicure, the parasite, and the buffoon. The lights and shades of his character were each strongly marked; and among his redeeming, yet inconsistent qualities, his affectionate attachment to his family circle, made his follies and frailties more

⁶⁰ After Clarence's death, that he might be 'ab omnibus incolis formidari,' he distributed in all parts of the realm in the custodies of the castles, manors, forests and parks, trusty persons, that nothing might be done, even by the greatest, without his immediate knowledge. Croyl. 562.

⁶¹ 'Altho' he found his kingdom greatly impoverished, and almost empty, both of men and money, he left it in all things rich and abundant.' Hall, p. 341. Like Henry V., he was interested by the wars in the holy land; and hence Caxton translated the acts and life of Godfrey of Boulogne, to please him. Pref. to King Arthur.

⁶² Fabian gives two instances of this. In July 1481, the king invited the mayor and

part of the corporation to a hunt in Waltham forest, and feasted them with a rich dinner and wine, in a bower of green boughs, and gave them plenty of venison at parting. The next month he sent two harts and six bucks to the wives of the mayor and aldermen, with a tun of wine to drink with them. p. 512. Hall remarks, that his courtesy, lowliness and familiarity were so great, that they occasioned the suspicion that he was poisoned. 341.

⁶³ Croyl. 564. Thus in September 1471, we find, 'the king and queen are ridden and gone to Canterbury on pilgrimage.' 2 Fenn. 83: and in Feb. 1472, 'the king, queen, and Gloucester are gone to Sheen to pardon.' Ib. 91.

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II.

1471.

more conspicuous, more censurable, more surprizing, and more regretted⁶⁴. He knew and felt where true happiness dwelt, and yet wandered from it, to perish prematurely by his infatuated mistake⁶⁵.

The education of his son, had been an object of his tenderest care and wisest judgment. He had appointed the most accomplished nobleman in his court, earl Rivers, his queen's brother, to be the governor of this prince; and in the last year of his life, but six weeks before he died, or had any expectation of dying, he settled the rules for his son's daily conduct and studies. These display all a father's anxiety for his improvement, and a minuteness of attention, to lead him to habits that would be most beneficial, and to remove all that could injure⁶⁶. What paternal judgment could

⁶⁴ Sir Thomas More says of him, that no prince was so heartily beloved by his people, nor was he so especially loved, as, at the time of his death, and that even some of the friends of Henry VI. had grown into his favour. He says he was of 'a goodly personage, and very princely to behold; of visage lovely; of body mighty; strong and clean made. Howbeit, in his latter days, with over liberal diet, somewhat corpulent and boorly, yet not uncomely;' and that 'albeit, all his reign he was with his people so benign, courteous and familiar, that no part of his virtues was more esteemed,' yet that this quality, in the end of his days, marvellously in him grew and increased. p. 150, 1.

⁶⁵ Hollingshed mentions an incident, which intimates his attractive manners. He asked a rich old lady what she would give him towards the war. Interested by his person and address, she said, 'For thy lovely face, thou shalt have twenty pounds;' being twice as much as the king expected. He thanked, and kissed her.

⁶⁶ These are preserved in the Sloane MS. in the British Museum, No. 3,479. They

display part of the best customs of the gentlemen of the day.

1. He shall arise every morning at a convenient time, and till he be ready, none but earl Rivers, his chamberlain, or chaplain, to enter his chamber, and one other chaplain to sing mattins, then to go to his chapel or chamber, to hear mass.

2. That he hear, every holiday, divine service.

3. That on principal feasts, sermons be preached before him.

4. That he breakfast immediately after mass, and be occupied an hour at his school before he go to meat, and to be at his dinner at a convenient hour, and that to be reasonably served, and his dishes borne by worshipful folks wearing our livery.

5. That no man sit at his board but as earl Rivers shall allow; and that there be read before him noble stories, as behoveth a prince to understand; and that the communication, at all times in his presence, be of virtue, honour, cunning, wisdom, and deeds of worship, and of nothing that shall move him to vice.

6. After

could provide to make the future happy to his child, he endeavored to secure. It is only to be lamented, that he himself yielded to indulgencies, which so immediately curtailed his own life, as to destroy the effect of all his prospective wisdom, and to plunge all that he most loved, into irretrievable calamity⁶⁷.

6. After his meat, in eschewing of idleness, that he be occupied two hours at his school; and after, in his presence, to be shewed all such convenient disports and exercises as belong to his estate to have experience in.

7. To go to his even song at a convenient hour; and soon after that to be at his supper.

8. After supper, that he have all such honest disports as may be conveniently devised for his recreation.

9. That he be in his chamber, and for all night; and the travers to be drawn by nine of the clock, and all persons then from thence to be avoided, except for attendance.

10. That sure and good watch be nightly had and kept about his person for safeguard.

11. That discreet and convenient persons be appointed to give attendance on his person, from his rising to his going to bed. Some other orders follow, for the regulation of his household and chapel. MS. N^o 3,479.

⁶⁷ The new fashion that he chose for the last state dresses was, to have very full hanging sleeves, like a monk's, lined with the most

sumptuous furs, and so rolled over his shoulders, as to give his tall person an air of peculiar grandeur. Croyl. 563. He gave so much attention to dress, as to procure an act, making it the mark of every one's quality, and keeping down the inferior degrees from intruding on the splendour of the upper classes. Thus it was, in his last year, enacted, that none but the royal family should wear any cloth of gold, or silk, of a purple colour. None, under a duke, any cloth of gold or tissue: none, under a lord, any plain cloth of gold: none, under a knight, any velvet, nor damask or satin, in their gowns: none, under an esquire or gentleman, any damask or satin in their doublets, nor gowns of camlet: none, under a lord, any woollen cloth made out of England, nor furs of sables. No labourer, servant, or artificer, were to have any cloth above two shillings a yard; but this act was not to extend to any woman, but the wives of the latter. Stat. of Realm, v. 2, p. 469. Thus the rank of every one was known immediately by his clothes.

HISTORY OF ENGLAND.

BOOK III.

REIGN OF EDWARD THE FIFTH.

1483. 9 APRIL—26 JUNE.

CHAP. I.

PREJUDICES AGAINST RICHARD III. REVIEW OF THE STATE
OF THE NOBILITY OF ENGLAND AT THIS TIME. ITS
VARIOUS CLASSES AND CHIEF LEADERS. THEIR RIVAL
INTERESTS. THE KNIGHTS OF ENGLAND. THE CLERGY.
VIOLENT SPIRIT OF THE COUNTRY.

BOOK
III.

1483.

IN the brief reign of this prince, the violent spirit and habits of the higher classes of England, in the middle ages, appeared in their most daring and mischievous exertion ; but by evincing so palpably, the moral deformity of a character so pernicious to society, contributed to its future degradation, and to its rapid disappearance from the English mind and history. The nobility patronized such deeds no more : and a new moral sensibility softened and improved both the heart and conduct, after the reign and

and fall of Richard III. He carried the unshrinking temper, fierce selfishness, and proud ambition of the European aristocracy, at that time, to their worst consequences; and thereby startled mankind into a perception and abhorrence of the criminality, and of the evils of such deadly struggles; such sanguinary resentments; such rapacity, cruelty and violence. The world has been often thus benefited by the extreme actions of wrong principles.

From an eagerness in the Tudor princes, and their partisans, to destroy all public sympathy for Richard III. and the line of York, which he had headed, and which others, after him, survived to represent; no part of our history has been more disfigured by passion, prejudice, injustice, and inaccuracy, than the two reigns of Edward V. and Richard III. To make the memory of the latter an execration among mankind, appears to have been a favorite object of the court and conversation of Henry VII., and of the chroniclers whom his successors patronized: and to achieve this end, most of the actions of Richard III. have been mis-stated, and his motives blackened. What he did that was evil has been exaggerated, and his proper conduct vilified and distorted¹. His reign was too short for writers, during that space to have flourished, who would have truly described it; and after his fall, it would have been deemed infamous and treasonable, and might have been dangerous to the then reigning dynasty, to have represented him in his just and fair proportions. The want of impartial documents, makes it difficult, if not impossible, now to give his true history².

Yet

¹ Sir Thomas More, Hall, Grafton, and Shakspeare, with many less known persons, have attached to his memory all that is most base and revolting, and have been indiscriminately followed by the chief writers of English history. Bucke attempted, above a century ago, to stop the stream of abuse; but his work was too feeble, and too random, to have any effect. It was lord Orford that first caused the public mind to begin to hesitate on Richard's defamation, in his 'Historic

Doubts on Richard III.:' but as he wrote with the spirit of a partisan, and without sufficient materials, he rather roused the attention, than satisfied the judgment. Both Hume, in his Appendix, and Gibbon, in his French review of this book (Miscel. Works 3, p. 331,) read, praised, criticised, but differed from Walpole.

² I consider the monk of Croyland, his contemporary, to have left the most exact account of his actions; and only regret, that the

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Yet some new facts may be rescued from our old materials which will enable us to take a juster review, and to form a sounder judgment on this depreciated man, without either partiality or paradox. Modern criticism, averse alike to fable and to rhetoric, wishes history neither to defame nor to blazon; but to explore and narrate the simple truth, wherever it is penetrable, or attainable, unvarnished and untwisted, with no disingenuous suppression, and without any political subserviency. On this principle, the present history has been attempted; and it has been our peculiar endeavor to apply it to the reigns of Edward V. and Richard III., anxious neither to be deceived, nor to deceive.

It is the supposition of Sir Thomas More³, and was the belief of his Tudor friends, that Richard framed, immediately on his brother's death, all the vile schemes and deeds which he afterwards perpetrated; but that he concealed and prosecuted them with an art and an hypocrisy, the most assiduous and deeply veiled. It may have been so. There is no natural impossibility in the circumstance. But the charge must either be an inference of his antagonists, from the events they knew, and have communicated, or a fact revealed to the world spontaneously by himself. That Richard, at any time, made such a confession is no where pretended⁴. The idea of his consummate hypocrisy has arisen from the impenetrable mask that always covered his interior thoughts. The suggestion must therefore be considered, as the opinion which cardinal Morton⁵, and his sovereign and friends, thought to be the most probable; and if they had not been interested, by every motive of human aggrandizement and profit, to cherish

the chronicler has mentioned them so sparingly, and so concisely. His 'Continuatio' is in the 2 Gale Script. p.

³ I shall quote More's English History, from Mr. Cayley's edition of it, in the second volume of his Life and Works.

⁴ Walpole acutely observes, 'Whatever Morton might tell More, of the plots of

Henry of Richmond, the archbishop was certainly not intrusted with the secrets of Richard.' p. 46.

⁵ As Morton died in 1500, and More was born in 1482, he must have had the information which he derived from this prelate before he was twenty, unless he wrote from Morton's work on Richard III.

cherish and diffuse such a belief, the deduction of their personal experience, and contemporary reasoning, would have carried with it a force of impression that might be considered nearly equivalent to evidence. But as their inferences may have been their prejudices, their passion, their policy, or their self-interest⁶, and are counteracted by the popularity and support which Richard received until his nephews disappeared; and by the regard, with which after his fall, his memory was cherished by many of his friends, it may approach nearer to the historical truth, if we narrate the events without this theory of original villany, and leave it to the reader to annex it, or not, as his own judgment prefers. Perhaps all that occurred, will be found to be satisfactorily accounted for, without an imputation, which it may be as unjust to affirm, as it would be partial positively to deny. The public and visible circumstances which occurred; and the natural probabilities that, from our usual experience of human nature, we may fairly attach to them, are all that now ought to influence our historical judgment, in estimating, or describing this almost proverbial king. When the whole truth of the case is temperately considered, instead of Richard being regarded as some peculiar monstrosity of human nature, it may be doubted, if any nobleman of his court, though not born with teeth⁷, would, under the same circumstances, dangers, inducements, and impulses, have acted otherwise. Such was the aristocracy of that period, and so great have been its improvements in England since. It would then have hung, burnt, drowned, stabbed, or beheaded, a witch, an heretic, an enemy, or a rival, with pleasure and as a duty. It now consigns these actions to the base and brutal portion of mankind.

At the death of Edward IV. the aristocracy of England, was distinguishable into four classes—1st. The queen's relations and friends.

State of the Nobility.

⁶ Walpole asks, 'Could More have drawn from a more corrupted source? Of all men living, there could not be a more suspicious testimony than the prelate's, except the king's.

Who had so much interest to blacken Richard, as the man who had risen to be prime minister to his rival?' p. 18.

⁷ More, p. 154. and Shakspeare.

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friends; 2d. The nobles in the king's household and administration, 3d. Those who desired to participate in official dignities, and 4th. The unemployed and unambitious remainder. A cursory review of the leading individuals of these different descriptions, and of their designs and interests, will enable us better to understand the two succeeding reigns which are usually depicted as an unintelligible scene of moral confusion and absurd flagitiousness.

1st. The queen's relations were, her brother earl Rivers, and some younger Woodvilles: her sons, by her first husband, who had been created marquis Dorset, and lord Richard Grey; and her brother-in-law lord Lyle.

Of these, RIVERS was an accomplished, active and superior character. He excelled in all the chivalry of the day, and had been successively appointed by Edward IV., governor of the Isle of Wight; constable of England after his father's death; captain of the king's armed power, knight of the garter; the chief butler of England; and the governor of the prince's household⁸. In 1471, he is noticed as about to go against the infidels⁹; and in 1473, he went on that pilgrimage to St. James of Compostella¹⁰, which was then so fashionable. In his voyage, he amused himself with translating the "dictes or sayenges of philosophers," which Caxton printed¹¹ four years afterwards. In 1476, we find him at Rome,

⁸ See Calend. Rotul. p. 312—18.

⁹ Ib. 316.

¹⁰ He says of himself, 'Understanding there was to be a jubilee and pardon at St. James, 1473, in Spain, he determined on a voyage thither.' Caxton's Dictes. Oldys. 6 Brit. lib. 65. Pilgrims were so respected, that when a ship's crew had taken some persons who were walking by the sea side, as soon as they found one to be a pilgrim, they gave him money, and set him again on the land. Fenn, p. 305.

¹¹ This was the first book from his press, with the year and place subjoined. Ames. typ. 1 Dibdin, 104; 'imprinted by W. Caxton,

at West. 1477.' The MS. has an illumination, representing Edward IV. his son, and queen; and Rivers, presenting his book to the king. The earl mentions it thus. 'In July, in the same year, he set sail from Southampton, when a worshipful gentleman in his company lent him, to pass over the time, the book of the sayings of the Philosophers, in French. He was much affected by the wholesome and sweet sayings therein of the Paynims; but as he could not, in all that pilgrimage, ever see it well, at his pleasure, through the dispositions that belong to the taker of a jubilee or pardon, and the great acquaintance he found there of worshipful folk, he intended, at a more convenient time, to be better acquainted with it.'

Rome, returning from which place he was robbed. He aspired to the hand of the heiress of Burgundy, but was rejected as too inferior¹²; and in 1482, a few months before Edward died, he was so favored by his royal brother-in-law, that he was about to marry the king of Scotland's daughter¹³. Besides being intrusted with the education and care of the prince whom he was training at Ludlow, he had the command of Shrewsbury and the adjoining part of Wales¹⁴. He possessed, therefore, the full confidence, the preferring regard, and the complete disposal of Edward V. at the critical moment of his accession, and at the same time, the power of assembling all the forces of South Wales, to support the line of politics, which the young king should adopt¹⁵. From these circumstances, he was in a position that naturally ensured him to become the head of the future government, especially if the queen should be made regent.

His nephew, LORD RICHARD GREY, was with him at Ludlow, an appointed counsellor of the prince¹⁶; while his elder nephew, THOMAS, remained in London with the queen, watching and promoting all the interests and ambition of her family. This gentleman had been rapidly advanced by his royal father-in-law. He was first created earl of Huntingdon, and four years afterwards, marquis Dorset¹⁷; although then so young, that in the last year of Edward the fourth's reign, he was put in possession of his lands without

it.' The earl adds, 'Remaining in this opinion, after the king commanded him to attend upon the prince, and having then leisure, he translated it into English, which had not been done before.' It is remarkable, that from his taste, or gallantry, Rivers omitted the last part, containing the sarcasms against the female sex, which Caxton, to make the work complete, supplied. Oldys. p. 65.

¹² 2 Fenn. p. 200. Comines, V. 2, p. 11.

¹³ This is mentioned in two documents in Rymer, vol. 12. One 22 August 1482, p. 162; and the other, dated 14 December p. 171.

¹⁴ We have his ordinances made for the government of Shrewsbury, in 1478, in the Cotton. MS. Vitell, c. 1.

¹⁵ More remarks, that Gloucester complained of the sovereign being sequestered in the hands and custody of his mother's kindred. p. 162.

¹⁶ Sloane MS. No. 3,479. The queen had recently paid 2,000 marcs for him, and several manors were given to him. R. Parl. 6, p. 217.

¹⁷ He was made earl 11 Ed. IV. and marquis on 18 April, 15 Ed. 4. 1 Dugd. Baron. 719, and Pol. Virgil.

without proof of his being of age¹⁸, an evidence that he had then scarcely attained it. But yet the important office of governor of the Tower was committed to him, which gave him the military command of the metropolis; and what was no less important, of the king's treasure, which was there deposited¹⁹. He was one of the lords who attended Edward's funeral²⁰. But if he was but 21, at the death of Edward, his brother, lord Richard Grey must have been still younger. LORD LYLE was another Grey ennobled by Edward. He was a brother of the queen's first husband²¹.

The prince's household at Ludlow, besides Rivers and Grey, consisted also of sir Thomas Vaughan, an aged gentleman of great influence in Wales, his chamberlain²²; sir William Stanley, steward of his household and brother of lord Stanley: and two prelates and other officers²³. Hence the party of the queen's friends, besides the actual possession of the new king's attachment, and therefore the direction of his authority, had a considerable portion of the great dignities and power of the country²⁴.

2d. Of the nobles who were seated in official power, the most important were, of the spiritual lords, the chancellor, Rotheram archbishop of York; Dr. Russell, bishop of Lincoln, the privy seal²⁵; Morton,

¹⁸ It was in 22 Ed. IV. he had this livery of his lands. Dugd. Baron. 719.

¹⁹ More, 167.

²⁰ Harl. MS. 6,111. Edward had given to him the marriage and wardship of Edward, the son and heir of the duke of Clarence. Cal. Rot. 325. Thus he had the commanding influence over all this property and its dependants.

²¹ Dugd. Bar. 1 p. 719.

²² And treasurer of the king's chamber. Cal. Rot. 318, 323.

²³ Sloane MS. N° 3,479. Sir Richard Crofts was his treasurer, and Richard Hurst, esq. treasurer of his household. The prelates were, the bishop of St. David's, his chancellor, and Alcock, bishop of Worcester, the president of his council. MS. ib. The latter was highly celebrated in his day.

²⁴ Lionel Woodville, the queen's other surviving brother, was a clergyman; had been archdeacon of Norwich. Cal. Rot. 313, and was then a bishop. There was also a sir Edward Woodville, and a sir Richard Woodville, relations of the queen, who are occasionally mentioned.

²⁵ This clergyman's name is connected with the earliest history of English typography. He was sent ambassador by Edward IV. to compliment the duke of Burgundy, on his receiving the order of the garter. His 'Propositio,' on this occasion, was printed by Caxton in 1469 or 1470. One copy of it only now remains, consisting of five leaves. A bookseller, who bought it for 2*l.* 5*s.* sold it to the present duke of Marlborough for fifty guineas, and at the sale of his books it was purchased by earl Spencer for 120 guineas.

Morton, bishop of Ely²⁶; Stillington, bishop of Bath and Wells; and Alcock, bishop of Worcester, the king's preceptor; and of the temporal peers, Hastings, Stanley, and Lovel.

HASTINGS had first emerged into public notice, under the patronage of Edward's father, the duke of York²⁷. He became so great a favorite with several of the nobility, in the year of Edward's accession, as to have from them many valuable grants of lands and money²⁸. The king rapidly promoted him, and employed him on embassies. He assisted Edward's escape from the Warwicks, at Middleham; fled with him on his retreat into Flanders; and commanded 3,000 horse on his side, at the deciding and perilous battle of Barnet. As a favorite and chief adviser of Edward, he was selected by the wily Louis XI. for an object of his gifts and pensions. He obtained several beneficial stewardships; married Katherine, the earl of Salisbury's daughter, and was appointed by Edward, the lord chamberlain of his own household, and of North Wales²⁹; and also governor of Calais and Guynes³⁰, the greatest station and deposit of the military forces of England. The list of the persons of quality, who freely served under him, when he accompanied Edward on his French expedition, attests his popularity and influence³¹. He was the most reluctant of Edward's court, to take the French bribes, but he yielded

²⁶ He was at first attached to the interest of queen Margaret, and sailed with her from the north to Flanders, W. Wyr. 495, but was pardoned by Edward IV. in 1472. 6 Rolls Parl. 26. He went with him to France; and in 1476 was keeper of the rolls in Chancery, and appointed, with lord Howard, an ambassador to negotiate with Louis XI. Edward made him bishop of Ely. Cal. Rot. 321, 323. He was one of those who took stipends from the French king, under Edward IV. being then master of the rolls. Comines, V. 2, p. 6.

²⁷ In 1455, the duke appointed him ranger of Ware, in Salop; and the next year made

him a grant of 10*l.* a year, with the marking designation of 'My beloved servant William Hastings.' 1 Dugd. Baronage, 580.

²⁸ Dugdale particularizes those from the duchess of Buckingham, from her eldest son, from J. lord Lovell, and from the queen's father and mother, besides others. Ib. 580.

²⁹ Cal. Rot. 299, 302, 309, 310, 318, 319, 320; and see Dugd. Baron. 1, p. 580—3.

³⁰ Croyl. 564.

³¹ It comprizes 2 lords, 9 knights, 58 esquires, and 20 gentlemen. Dugd. 583.

BOOK III. yielded to their temptation, though he is praised by Comines for his singular wisdom and virtue³².

1483.

STANLEY had married a sister of the great earl of Warwick; but notwithstanding his importunity, had refused to take up arms against Edward IV. as he had evaded the orders of Margaret and Henry, to attack the friends of the duke of York. This conduct ensured him the confidence and attachment of Edward, who appointed him steward of his household, took him into France, in his army, and in the last year of his life, sent him with the duke of Gloucester into Scotland. A little before Edward died, he had the command of Gloucester's right wing, and distinguished himself by taking Berwick by assault. He married, for his second wife, not long before Edward died, Margaret, the duchess of Richmond, whose son, by her first husband, became Henry VII.³³ His character was high, his conduct had been always moderate, and honorable, and his influence was proportionate with his believed honor, calm courage, soldierly knowledge, and personal respectability.

FRANCIS LORD LOVEL was another nobleman whom Edward raised to this peerage, a short time before he died; and who attended Gloucester to his Scottish campaign³⁴.

3d. Of the unemployed, but aspiring nobility, the greatest in rank, and who became the most active in exertion, was HENRY DUKE OF BUCKINGHAM. He was the son of the former duke's eldest child and heir, who had fallen at the first battle of St Albans³⁵.

The

³² Comines, who had prevailed on him to be one of Burgundy's pensioners of 1,000 crowns a-year, was employed, and successfully, to induce him to take Lewis's doubled annuity of 2,000 crowns. The author says, 'It was with great difficulty and solicitation, that he was made one of the French king's pensioners;' but Peter Cleret being privately admitted into his house in London, presented the 2,000 crowns *in gold*, 'for to foreign lords of great quality the king never gave any thing

else.' Comines, p. 8; and see before, in this vol. p. 385.

³³ Dugd. Baron. v. 2, p. 248. Pol. Virg.

³⁴ Made lord Lovel 4 Jan. 22 Ed. IV. Dugd. Bar. 1, p. 560. Oliver King was Edward's secretary at his death, and sir John Ebrington treasurer of his household. R. Parl. 6, p. 221. Sir William Husey was chief justice of the King's Bench. Ib. 209.

³⁵ Dugd. Baron. V. 1, p. 165, 167.

The preceding duke, his grandfather, had been very warlike, and so successful in his ambitious attentions to Suffolk, and afterwards to queen Margaret, as to obtain the high military grant of the captainship of Calais, and to be raised from earl to duke, by Henry VI³⁶. The king had also elevated his governor Warwick to the same dignity, with the declaration of his precedency; but the aspiring pride of the Buckingham family, was evinced by the new duke contesting the priority of Warwick. Such great animosities arose on this point, as to disturb the king; and they were only appeased, by a special act of parliament, giving to each duke the precedency, every alternate year³⁷. Warwick dying two years afterwards, Buckingham obtained a royal grant for taking the lead of all dukes, who should not be of the blood royal³⁸. This haughty nobleman fell at the battle of Northampton, in 1460, leaving many children; but his grandson Henry, succeeded to his title and estates, then not six years old. This young duke was committed, by Edward, to his sister the duchess of Exeter, to be by her reared, with an attachment to the York family³⁹. He had been brought forward to the public eye, in his nomination, to superintend the execution of the duke of Clarence, and was about twenty-nine, at the accession of Edward V.; but in that day of jealous pride, grasping power, and family emulation, we cannot doubt that the ambition of his predecessors, would become the character of his own mind; and that it was so, all his actions, after the death of Edward IV., most rapidly displayed. It is remarkable, that he had a near family connection, with the earl of Richmond and his mother. Before this lady married lord Stanley, she had been, by her second nuptials, the wife of Buckingham's uncle, sir Henry Stafford, who died at the latter end of 1481⁴⁰. This peculiar position led to the events which destroyed himself, and raised Henry VII. to the throne.

Another

³⁶ Dugd. Baron. V. 1, p. 164—6.

³⁷ Ib.

³⁸ Ib.

³⁹ Ib. 167.

⁴⁰ Sir Henry's will is dated 2 October 1481,

by which he bequeaths to his son-in-law, the earl of Richmond, a trappure of four new horse harness of velvet. 1 Dugd. 167.

Another nobleman, who had been confidentially employed by Edward IV. on his embassies to France⁴¹, was JOHN LORD HOWARD, who after the duke of Norfolk's sudden death, in 1476⁴², and of his daughter Ann, some few years afterwards, became entitled to the possessions of this illustrious family. He was naturally an aspirant to the same ducal dignity, which had accompanied this property; but two events put his interests, and perhaps his spirit, at variance with Edward's court and family. Ann, the former duke's heiress, had been married by Edward, at six years of age, to his son, the prince Richard, also but a child⁴³; and to this young prince, created duke of York, a royal grant was made, vesting her lands in him⁴⁴. When Ann, the baby heiress died, and lord Howard thereby became the legal heir to the Norfolk property, his interests, and those of the young duke of York, came into hostile competition. Another circumstance dissatisfied his mind. In 1478, he had been appointed constable of the Tower, for his life⁴⁵; and Edward afterwards superseded him to appoint the marquis Dorset, in his stead. Thus his disturbed spirit was directed or prepared to act against the queen's family, by whom he had been supplanted.

4th. The most distinguished person of the rest of the nobility, was the EARL OF OXFORD. He had been a zealous and active warrior for Henry VI. and Margaret, and had much teased Edward, but at last was pardoned by him. Being afterwards committed to the castle at Hannes, on the French coast, he had attempted to escape by leaping from the walls into the ditch⁴⁶, but was taken and continued a prisoner till Edward's death. Many other noblemen appeared on public occasions, whose interests and desires tended

⁴¹ Cal. Rot. 321. Rym. Fed. 12, p. 14, 50, 113. On the monies which he received from the French king. See before, p. 385.

⁴² Fenn. Lett. 2, p. 186.

⁴³ The marriage was made in 1477. Rolls Parl. 6, p. 168.

⁴⁴ 6 Parl. Rolls, 206. In 1482, she is mentioned as then dead. Ib.

⁴⁵ Cal. Rot. 323. Some of the manors of the duke of Clarence were then granted to him. Ib.

⁴⁶ 2 Fenn. 149.

tended principally to the conservation of domestic peace, and to the discouragement or prevention of all civil warfare⁴⁷.

CHAP.

I.

Of the gentry who took a part, or came forward to the public eye, after Edward's death, were sir John Cheney, the master of his horse, sir Thomas Montgomery, one of his executors⁴⁸, and sir Richard Ratcliffe.

Amid these noblemen and gentlemen, some of great, and the others of much power and influence, reputation, ability, independence, and high spirit; and under their impulses, and with their approbation, or against their opposition, Richard had to act. This view of the political state of the country, will shew at once, that he had neither the freedom nor the power to do as he pleased. He was surrounded and circumscribed in all his movements, by active and able men; and he could not, in any of his measures, effect what he wished, against the general will, nor without the co-operation of the most leading men of the country. The chains of circumstances and necessities that surrounded him, and by some of which he was governed, will appear more conspicuously when we contemplate the views, passions, and interests of these different bodies.

It was the queen and her family's wish, that they should conduct the government of the country, and enjoy its chief advantages, and if possible, under her or their own regency⁴⁹. The young king, brought up under their tuition, could have no other feelings; and from his predilections, and their own situations, and the active spirit

The parties
and opposing
interests of
the great.

⁴⁷ Of the other noblemen, we find mentioned, as attending parliament or court, or acting at this time, the earls Lincoln, Arundel and Huntingdon, viscount Berkeley, and the lords Dacre, Dudley, Burgenny, Audley, Cobham, Wells. It may be remarked, that soon after Edward the fifth's birth, all the chief spiritual and temporal swore to take him for king, if he should outlive his father. Among them were Gloucester, Norfolk, Buckingham, Hastings and Howard. Parl. Rolls 6, p. 234.

⁴⁸ Both these are mentioned by Comines, as partakers of the French king's corrupting stipends. Comines, V. 2, p. 6. Ratcliffe had been benefited by grants from Edward IV. See Parl. Rolls, 6, p. 80.

⁴⁹ Sir T. More remarks, that 'every one, as he was nearest of kin to the queen, so was planted next about the prince.' p. 160. 'This drift was not unwisely devised by the queen, whereby her blood might of youth be rooted in the prince's favour.' p. 162.

spirit of Rivers, supported as it was by the command of South Wales, they appeared to be certain of governing both the cabinet and the kingdom. This prospect of power, was more ensured to them by the disposition of the dignified heads of the clergy, who, from the chancellor archbishop to the last of the episcopal bench, were disposed to identify themselves with the royal power. Nothing was wanted to effectuate this political ambition, but the appearance of Edward V. and his late governor, in the metropolis, at the head of a force large enough to deter all opposition.

But against this arrangement of power, the two classes of the lay-official, and of the aspiring nobles, immediately presented themselves from motives of personal safety, as well as of personal ambition: and all the rest of the more indifferent part of the aristocracy, who prided themselves on ancient ancestry and family celebrity, being adverse to the elevation of the queen's family of inferior birth, and of such recent greatness, gave their sanction, more or less avowed, to the opposition of the interested lords. The selfish views, and the irritated passions of the great English aristocracy, were therefore roused, and united against the queen and her family; and it was obvious, that an immediate contest must succeed the burial of Edward IV. to determine whether Rivers, Dorset and Grey; or Hastings and Stanley, and Howard and Buckingham, should guide the young king, and direct the future government. If the duke of Gloucester had died before his brother, still this battle remained to be fought, and could not have been decided without the convulsion of a civil war, or the violence of anticipating murderous executions. Hastings, Stanley, Buckingham, and Howard, at first moved in amicable concert, till the queen's friends were overthrown: and to produce this event, the interests of these noblemen, and their partizans, were in perfect union; though it is obvious, that as soon as that result should be attained, their future views would become as divergent. The clergy, who had found Edward IV. at last, as obsequious to their

their possessed establishments as they could desire ; and some of whose chiefs were forming and influencing his son's mind, could not hope for any better event to themselves than his accession, under a continuation of the same predilections and impressions. Hence they attached themselves to the queen and her friends, at the outset, while the predominance of this party was likely ; but being actuated greatly by policy, they were as ready to adhere to any other scheme of government which should be substituted instead, that bore to them a friendly aspect, and could protect them against the hostility which surrounded them.

The duke of Gloucester was naturally looked up to by all the classes of the aristocracy, except the queen's family, as their patron and head. His power and predominance would suit every interest but the Woodvilles. These must either subside into subordinate and defeated nobles, or plunge themselves into direct competition with Gloucester. If they did not govern the king and kingdom, they would become insignificant : because, having risen wholly by the late king's favor, they would fall into obscurity without the new king's as zealous support ; but this prop would be lost, if others obtained the command of his official mind. Hence their interests, and the duke of Gloucester's, were wholly irreconcilable. He knew the weight they had thrown into the fatal scale against his brother Clarence, when Edward's mind was balancing on his execution. He could not be slow to foresee or dread his own destruction, if they obtained the triumph. Two dukes of Gloucester, both uncles of reigning sovereigns, had, under those sovereigns, been allowed to perish from the accusation, if not the direct authority, of the related crown.

But Hastings and Rivers had already become pitched against each other, in deadly hostility, during the life of Edward IV. ; and from Hastings's differences with the queen's family, he had been, notwithstanding his high favor with the king, imprisoned in

in the Tower, and remained there for awhile, believing his life to be in jeopardy every hour. He could not suppose it would be less so after such an event, if they obtained the ascendancy in the cabinet; nor could the Woodvilles imagine that the administration of Hastings would be more friendly to them⁵⁰.

Hence, if no historical information had reached us of the issue of this state of personal interests and feelings, we should expect it to be, that all the other parties would combine to depress the queen's; and that this being accomplished, they would begin to differ among themselves, on the participation of the advantages of their victory⁵¹. The aspiring would be inimical to those who were in possession. Buckingham and Hastings would be each indisposed to allow the superiority to the other; and as the king and queen-mother on the one hand, and Gloucester on the other, were the centers of two great opposing factions, they who found themselves least secure of Gloucester's favor would endeavor to add to their strength, by coalescing with every other party. Hence, as Buckingham and Gloucester cemented their political cordiality, Hastings and his friends, would be tempted to ally with the queen and her assisting churchmen, and thereby to have a new claim to the young king's partiality. The final struggle would therefore be, between Gloucester and Buckingham, on the one part; and Hastings, the queen, and Edward V. on the other; and the destruction of one side of the competitors, and possibly of both, would seem to be the ultimate result, which all former experience, and especially of the last two reigns, would teach us to anticipate.

The

⁵⁰ Sir T. More says, 'Against Hastings the queen specially grudged, for the great favor the king bare him, and also for that she thought him secretly familiar with the king in wanton company. Her kindred also bare him sore, as well because the king had made him captain of Calais, which lord Rivers claimed of the king's former promise, as for divers other great gifts which he received, that they looked for.' p. 157.

⁵¹ More intimates the rivalry between Buckingham and Hastings, as well as their temporary union against the Woodvilles. 'Both men of honor and of great power; the one by long succession from his ancestry, the other by his office and the king's favor. These two, not bearing each to other so much love, as hatred both unto the queen's party.' p. 163.

The melancholy catastrophe which actually occurred corresponded with those probabilities.

CHAP.

I.

From this preliminary survey it is obvious, that unless all the noble competitors for the power, rank, and fortune, which the command of the English government would give, had suddenly abandoned their ambitious pride, passions, and self-interest; a mortal conflict must ensue, to determine in whom the regency, the administration, and the patronage of the crown of England, should be vested. And this warfare did not depend on any secret intrigues or dark plottings of the duke of Gloucester; it was the open, palpable, and avowed state of things. Every one saw that these competitions existed; every one knew the resenting and aspiring feelings of the great leaders; and all the reflective must have expected a civil war. Indeed, one great cause of the ease with which the violences we have to narrate were committed, was, that they seemed to be preventive of those sanguinary battles, which had in the former reign produced so much destruction, and which, but for this more private way of suppressing each other, would certainly take place. A due impression of this truth will show, that there is no necessity for supposing Gloucester to have been that vulgar and satanic anomaly, which party prejudice has represented him to be. He was, like most great men who stride forward to command their contemporaries, the creature and the mirror of his age and its circumstances. The very success which is so often ascribed to recondite art, is more frequently but an illustration of Oliver Cromwell's remark, "That no man often advances higher than he, who knows not whether he is going." Men are rather pushed into the grand elevations they occupy, by the interests and efforts of others, or by the waves of succeeding circumstances, or by the opposition of their enemies, than raised to them by their own anteceding plots and cunning. These may somewhat assist, or a while maintain, but rarely, if ever, exalt.

It will enlarge the picture of England's interior state, at the

accession

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The knights
of England.

accession of Edward V. if we glance at the state of the knight-hood of the country at that period.

This had been the main prop of the military vigor and reputation of England. Every nobleman had been first a knight; every king coveted the honor, as his earliest distinction; and it was long the fashionable and certain avenue to wealth, honors, fame, beauty, and power⁵². But near the death of Edward IV. a remarkable change became visible in the minds and habits of the English knights and gentry. Whether so many had perished in the French campaigns, and in the civil wars at home, that the population did not provide a supply as rapid as the loss; or whether the calamities of a fighting life, or the introduction of cannon in battle, or Edward's luxurious habits, had created a distaste for the chivalric pursuits: or whether all these causes combined to change the public humor; it is manifest, that the warlike amusements of knighthood were, at this period, falling into disuse. The ancient books of chivalry were laid aside; and gentlemen, instead of courting the knightly honor, avoided its imposition. This feeling began in the reign of Henry VI. after the reverses of the French wars. We find persons, in 1439, petitioning parliament to be discharged from the legal obligation of assuming this once coveted dignity, on their paying fines to the king instead⁵³. Hence, Richard

⁵² How highly knights were estimated in the reign of Henry VI. appears from the king's official letter, on the creation of a knight of the garter. 23 Hen. VI.

'With great praises are they to be mentioned, and with singular glory to be extolled, who, with a fervent desire and unwearied mind, strive to apply their time and life to the welfare of the republic; who incur danger to themselves, that others may be tranquil; who thirst for an excelling fame, and an immortal name, above all worldly goods; and who deem themselves happy, if they perceive that the common good can be assisted by their labor and fidelity. O, most happy race of men! without whom cities, walls, kingdoms, lordships, the princes of the world, nay,

even the world itself, could not enjoy safety! O, most illustrious and just men! by whose consecrated disposition all the virtues flourish, the bad are restrained, and the perverse kept down.' Rot. Turris. Lond. ap. Anst. Reg. Gart. V. 1, p. 131.

⁵³ Roll Parl. p. 27. The king of Prussia says truly, 'in these gross ages, the address of the body was estimated as it was in the time of Homer. Our times, more enlightened, grant their esteem only to the talents of the mind; and to those virtues, which, raising man above his condition, cause him to trample his passions under his feet, and make him benevolent, generous and sympathizing.' Hist. Brand. 1, p. 25.

Richard was obliged to issue an order, as protector, in the name of Edward V., to command those who had the requisite forty pounds a-year to receive the dignity. Such compulsions had occurred before; but it is in the reign of Richard III.⁵⁴ that Caxton complains, that the exercises of chivalry were not used as before⁵⁵; and that the knights of his day, instead of these employments, wasted their time at baths and dice, sleeping and taking their ease⁵⁶. He exhorts them to read the old romances, where they would see manhood, curtesy, and genteelness⁵⁷. He intimates, that few of them were ready at a point, to display a knight's accomplishments⁵⁸; and calls upon Richard, twice or thrice a year to celebrate jousts of peace, to make knights provide themselves as they ought, and to have tournaments for prizes, that gentlemen might court fame by chivalry, and be always ready to serve their prince, when called on⁵⁹. The same happy decline of the battle spirit seems to have also pervaded the yeomanry of the country; for Richard found it necessary to issue mandates to his bailiffs, to prohibit men from neglecting the lawful game of shooting with arrows.

⁵⁴ Caxton addressed his book 'of the ordre of chyvalry or knyghthode, translated out of Frencshe,' to 'my redoubted lord king Richard.' He says, 'which book is not requisite to every man to have, but to noble gentlemen, that, by their virtue, intend to come, and entre into the noble ordre of chivalry.' Oldys. Brit. Lib. p. 191.

⁵⁵ 'Forgotten, and the exercises of chivalry not used, honoured, nor exercised, as it hath been in ancient time, at which time the noble acts of the knights of England that used chivalry, were renowned through the universal world.' Ib.

⁵⁶ 'O, ye knights of England, where is the custom and usage of noble chivalry?—What do ye now, but go to the baynes, and play at dyse? Alas! what do ye, but sleep and take ease, and are all disordered fro chivalry.' Ib. 192.

⁵⁷ 'Leve this; leve it, and rede the noble

volumes of s' Graal, of Lancelot, of Trystram, of Galaod, of Perseforest, of Perceval, of Gawayn, and many mo. There shall ye see manhode, curtoyse, and gentylness.' Ib.

⁵⁸ 'I would demand a question. How many knights been there now in England, that have the use and exercise of a knight; ready at a point to have all thing that longeth to a knight; an horse that is according, and broken after its kind; his armurers and harness mete and fytting, and so forth?' Ib. 193.

⁵⁹ 'I would it pleased our sovereigne lord, that twice or thrice in a year, or at least once, he would do crye justs of peace, to the end that every knight should have horse and harness, and also the use and craft of a knight; and also to tournaye, one against one, or two against two, and the best to have a prize, a diamond or jewel.' Ib. It is clear, from these passages, that the ancient knight was now going out of fashion.

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arrows⁶⁰. This seems to have been a point of even national importance; for Comines remarks, that the chief strength of an army, in the day of battle, consisted in the archers; and gives the English the merit of being then the best archers in the world⁶¹. Till guns came into full use, they were, in fact, the artillery of an army; the agents that destroy without personal contact. It was, perhaps, fortunate for our national happiness and improvements, that, while the nobility was most factious, the people were becoming less warlike.

State of the church.

The state of the public mind towards the church, at this time, and the ecclesiastical feeling on this subject, ought not to be omitted, when we are contemplating the various causes of agitation which were disturbing England, when Richard took the helm of government, and was permitted or excited to seize the crown.

A speech for opening the convocation.

A discourse, prepared to be delivered at the convocation of the clergy, ten days after the death of Edward IV. and which still exists in manuscript, will give us sufficient information on this important point⁶².

The orator or preacher alludes strongly to the necessity of lessening their pecuniary avidity.

“ Let us, after the example of the gospel, make ourselves good shepherds, not mercenary ones; that we may know our sheep, and they may know us. It is time; it is indeed time, excellent fathers!

⁶⁰ This was issued 7 May 1484. It forbade them to use carding, dising, bowling, playing at the tennis, quoiting, pikking, and other unlawful and inhibited sports. Harl. MSS. p. 215. But this injunction implies that the violent exercises of war were exchanging for those amusements which have occupied the English gentry and rustics till our own times. This change of taste, or diminished use of shooting, was then ascribed to the advanced price of bows and bowstaves; and acts were passed forbidding long bows to be sold for more than 3 s. 4 d. each, and bowstaves for more than 40 s., or at most 46 s. 8 d. the hundred. Stat. of Realm. V. 2, p. 472, 494.

⁶¹ Comines 1, p. 31. One cause of the decline of knighthood may have been, that the sovereigns found it to be important to their own safety to discountenance it in peace. Knights made their nobility too formidable. Hence, in Nov. 1413, the king issued orders, forbidding knights or squires to obey the summons of any lord. Monstrel. 3, p. 260.

⁶² It has not yet appeared in print. It is in the British Museum, MS. Cleop. E. 3. It does not appear to have been actually spoken, as the convocation is not stated to have met as intended.

fathers ! to listen to the precept of the apostle, that we should be instant, in season and out of season."

"But many will say, that all these things are most accurately fulfilled ; and that such elaborate addresses ought not to be made in public. Human faults should not be chided with such acrimony as they are in this kingdom."

After praying for "our new prince, of the best disposition, and the sweetest hope, our dread king Edward V. the lady queen Elizabeth, his mother ; all the royal offspring ; the princes of the king ; his nobles and people ;" he directs his address to lament the hostility, which, as he could not disguise, was pressing against the church. "There are two kinds of christians, clergy and laity ; but the laymen now harass the clergy. These are two armies unequal in worldly power ; and one will destroy the other, unless the kindness and harmony of the fellow-soldiers resist prudently what opposes." He then regrets, that the clerical body should be divided by discords within itself ; and states, that the laity wished to suppress the power and liberty of the church. That the negligences, ignorances, cupidity, and avarice of the prelates, were every where inculcated ; that their judgments, processes, sentences and decrees were held in contempt ; and that the orders of their councils were irreverently disputed before the laity."

Attacks on
the Clergy
in 1483.

"These things," he says, "provoke the laity of our time, to attempt such unbridled enormities against the church. Fearing no censure, they even indict clergymen for fictitious crimes ; drag them to examinations ; throw them into squalid prisons to make them empty their barns, while some are even fixed in pillories, or fastened to the gibbet." He continues ;

"There are scarcely ten in any diocese, who do not yearly suffer either in their person or their purse. Hence parsons do not reside on their benefices ; yet this cause not being adverted to, they are publicly inveighed against for their absence ; and all the regard and devotion of the faithful to the priests have become chilled ; and tithes, oblations, and other benefits to the churches, fall

fall to nothing. No censure is omitted, which can make priests and their actions displeasing and hateful to the people. Consummate orators apply themselves to these topics only to please the public; their vanity blinds them to the future, and they will not see the venom which is gathering in the tail."

"It is easy," he adds, "for clergymen, who are clothed in soft raiment in this city and other large towns, and who, from the greatness of their literature, have the first seats at the banquets of the great, and the first greetings in the market-place, and who know nothing of the persecutions of the country priests, to enlarge invectively against these for non-residence. Could they experience such evils themselves, they would alter their opinions."

He then exclaims, "Thou, city priest! art thou ignorant how greatly thy good fortune differs from thy rustic brother's?—You take only ready money, of which neither violence nor craft can deprive you: But where can he place in safety, his sheep, oxen, lambs, wool, calves, horses, grass, and corn?—For if the power and equity of a good king could restrain the audacity of wicked force; yet there are so many local pretensions of law, so many loopholes; such intricacies made; so many presentations before twelve men, and other contrivances, that scarcely any ecclesiastic dares to say, that what he possesses, will be his own."

Having painted these evils, he very emphatically calls upon the convocation, to end all their differences. "Let there be no more schisms among us. Let us not dispute either upon law or reason. If any one has a measure to propose of reform, in the clerical state, or jurisdiction, let him come here and propose it to this assembly. Here we sit remote from laymen. No wicked Ham can here act indecently to his father, nor have seat or voice among us."

"So I wish that all preachers, who would suggest any thing great to prelates or ecclesiastical persons, for their emendation, would chuse such a place apart, to announce the crimes of their pastors, where the horned cattle will not be present with us.

Where

Where they who particularly exult, and erect their horns to strike the pastors of their churches, and to disperse their flocks, may *not learn from us* what is objectionable in us."

"We have now rolled the stone from which—from which, I say, the people laugh at us, and make us their songs all the day long."

He again exhorts the different orders of the church to love each other as brethren. He reminds them, that some of the middle ranks of the people, (the third order,) are not slothful spectators of such an odious contest, and attend to it only to consider and look forward to its inevitable result⁶³.

To this survey of the leading interests and feelings of the various classes of the state, let us add the recollection of the spirit of individual violence, which then generally raged in society, both at home and abroad. One of its worst features, was an indifference to the shedding of human blood, that to us is inconceivable, especially in the upper ranks. A duke of Burgundy easily found gentlemen to assassinate the duke of Orleans⁶⁴; and the Dauphin, with every previous treachery, had Burgundy destroyed in his presence⁶⁵. Friars of repute were found to justify such deeds⁶⁶.

The violent spirit of the times.

It was not only in a civil war, that after defeating 50,000 people of Liege, with 3,200 men, their feudal lord purposely continued the slaughter, till 28,000 had perished⁶⁷; but when in regular battle, the admiral of Bretagne had beaten the English fleet, and taken 2,000 prisoners, the greater part of these were thrown overboard and drowned⁶⁸. Where there was no hope of ransom, there was little mercy. Garrisons were repeatedly put to the sword, after being taken by storm, by both the English and French, in France⁶⁹; and the count of Namur seized and beheaded

⁶³ MSS. Cleop. E. 3, p. 106—116.

⁶⁴ See vol. 2. of this history, p. 285.

⁶⁵ See this vol. p. 4.

⁶⁶ Monst. V. 1, p. 220.

⁶⁷ When the duke was asked, after the defeat, if they should cease from slaying the Liegeois,

he replied, 'Let them all die together, for I will not that any prisoner be made, nor that any be ransomed.' 2 Monstrel. 36.

⁶⁸ This was in 1403. Monst. V. 1, p. 90.

⁶⁹ Thus in 1423, when the duke of Bedford, in the month after his marriage, took Pont sur Seine,

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beheaded his illegitimate brother, because he had consented to his sister's marriage with a great lord, whom he disliked⁷⁰. Of the unsparing cruelty with which the English nobility and gentry put each other to death after capture, in their civil contests, we have before given frequent instances⁷¹. To behead or kill a personal or political enemy, the moment they had him in their power, seems to have been a matter of course. If two gentlemen met, who had any dislike towards each other, it did not, as now, cause an honorable discussion or a single duel, on equal terms, but an immediate attack, followed by murder⁷². The most deliberate and daring homicides were committed without remorse, and even in the face of the gazing public.

The change of sentiment in English society, on this point, is as remarkable as it is beneficial. The murderer's grudge, which in the fifteenth century, was often a cherished inmate in the nobleman's breast, is now consigned to be the opprobrium of the lowest and most worthless of mankind. No others, in our happy country, now exhibit it. A few examples will be given, in the notes, of the personal violences and atrocities which repeatedly occurred, during the fifteenth century, in England⁷³.

Having

Seine, he put all the French there to the sword. Monst. 6, p. 35; and see the cruelties on the capture of Soissons, V. 4, p. 31; and so, when Luxemburg retook Hamme, 'he cruelly put to death the greater part of his enemies.' V. 6, p. 65. Such things are often mentioned.

⁷⁰ Monst. 1, p. 160.

⁷¹ See this volume in several places.

⁷² Sir Henry Stafford, eldest son of the duke of Buckingham, had some old debate with sir Robert Harcourt, about taking a distress for rents. By chance at Coventry, Stafford, with his son Richard, was going to his inn, Richard, being a little behind. Harcourt came near. He struck Richard violently on his head with his sword, who rushed on him with his dagger, but stumbling, one of Harcourt's

men stabbed him in the back with a knife. His father, hearing a noise, rode up with his followers; but as he was dismounting, some one struck him on the head with an edge tool, and he fell down dead by his son. His servants pursued Harcourt's, and killed two of his party, and several were wounded. Both parties were indicted, but nothing seems to have followed. Fenn's Letters, 1, p. 15.

⁷³ The following instances of illegal violences done by persons of the upper ranks of society, between 1410 and 1480, will show their general conduct, whenever their passions or their interests were concerned.

An abbot, having been three years in possession of his abbey, was ousted forcibly by another, who had obtained the pope's grant of it over his head. The dispossessed abbot, with

Having thus sketched the spirit and state of society, the leading persons, and the counteracting currents of interests and passions, amid which Richard was, by his brother's unexpected death, suddenly called upon to act, we proceed to narrate the events that ensued;

with his brother and 40 friends, armed from head to foot, attacked the other; shot at him several barbed arrows to kill him, wounded him and three of his followers, and took away his jewels, plate and property. *Rolls. Parl. 4, p. 28.*

The prior and canons of Bernewell, claiming the tenants of Chesterton as their bond ceorles, who denied their right of slavery, six priests and canons, at the instigation of another priest, laid in wait for one of the resisting tenants, on the king's highway, beat and wounded him almost to death, took away his books and bills, and kept him in prison seven years: the marks of his wounds still remaining when he petitioned Parliament for relief. *Ib. p. 61.*

It was stated to Parliament, that a great number of scholars and clerks of Oxford, armed and arrayed for war, often dispossessed and ousted many persons of the contiguous counties of Oxford, Berks and Buckingham, of their lands and tenements, so that their owners could not live on them. *Ib. 131.*

Another petition complained, that in Herefordshire, even before the civil wars, besides divers extortions, oppressions and murders, various persons were lawlessly deprived of their lands and goods, and their women and children carried off, and kept in dungeons, till they had ransomed themselves.

Sir John Talbot, his brother sir William, and 49 other persons, are named as pursuing these practices. *Ib. 254.*

In Cambridge, its county, and in Essex, several persons sent orders to many people, commanding them to put great sums of money in certain places, or their houses should be burnt. Many mansions were robbed and destroyed accordingly. The Irish, Welsh and Scotch scholars at the University, are declared to be the authors of these atrocities. *Ib. 358.*

In 1430, the House of Commons called the attention of the government to the murders, rapes, robberies and burnings, that pervaded the counties of Salop, York, Nottingham, Derby and Sussex. *Ib. p. 421.*

A lady of quality's house was attacked by a gentleman, with an armed party, who forced an entrance at five in the morning, carried her away from her bed, in her linen and kirtle only; took her to a church, and insisted on the priest marrying her. She refused; he menaced. The priest read the ceremony, in spite of her resistance; and she was taken away to the wild and desolate part of Wales. *Ib. 497—8.*

In 1439, another lady of distinction complained of her late husband's great friend, who had undertaken to conduct her to her sick mother. On the way, an armed ambush, he had secretly provided, started into the road, smote her on the arm, and beat down her servant. Her friend pretended to relieve her, but it was only to carry her to the marches of Wales, where he kept her without any meat or drink but a little whey, till she was nearly dead, that she might consent to marry him. On her refusal, she was put into a dungeon at Glamorgan, and threatened to be transported to the Snowdon mountains. Though she was pregnant, she was forced to a church; she persisted in her refusal; and, notwithstanding her outcries, was taken off, and violated. *Rolls Parl. 5, p. 15.*

In 1472, as the deputy of the duchy of Cornwall was sitting on the bench, holding its legal court, a gentleman, who had malice against him for the office, suddenly, with 14 armed men, attacked and grievously wounded him and his servants; tore the official rolls, and robbed and imprisoned him without relief, that he might bleed to death, till they had compelled him to give the release and

ensued ; which, from the preceding considerations, may be expected to be of an odious and direful kind ; not in him alone, but in all who were then struggling for ascendancy or advantage.

and pecuniary bonds which they desired. After they had let him go, the same person procured others to waylay him at a fair ; killed him, clove his head into four pieces, and cut off one of his legs and arms and head, and stripped his body of all his money. *Ib.* 6, p. 35—7.

In the same year, as another person was travelling in Yorkshire, three brothers, for some grudge, suddenly thrust at him with a spear ; and when he had fallen from his horse, with their swords they smote off both his hands and one of his arms, and hamstrung his legs ; and left him bleeding and dying, taking away his armor. They then endeavored to get into the duke of Gloucester's service, to have his protection against all legal consequences. *Ib.* p. 38.

About the same time, as sir John Asheton, with his lady and family and friends, were at his manor house, she then in child-bed, a squire, at the head of 200 persons in arms, and sounding their horns and trumpets, at two in the morning attacked his fortified house ; broke down the walls, and, with fire that they had brought with them in a salette, set fire to the gates. To save his wife's life, and stop the outrages, he was compelled to come forth, and submit to them. They carried him to Pomfret castle, and extorted from him a bond of 1,000*l.* *Ib.* 51.

As a Cornish gentleman, with his wife and family, were going on a pilgrimage, they were attacked by ten others with bows and arrows, swords and bills, acting under the orders of a neighbouring gentleman. They escaped much wounded, but were afterwards again assailed by them, when reinforced by 30 others, a part of whom afterwards assaulted and plundered his mansion. *Ib.* 54.

In 1477, a gentleman headed 24 persons, by the command of the duke of Clarence, broke into a lady's house, and carried her off violently to Bath ; took all her jewels and money ; separated her from all her servants, and imprisoned her ; and then caused her to be indicted on an absurd charge of contriving the death of the duchess. *Ib.* 173.

Even official men used their power to give effect to their rapacity. The inhabitants of the Isle of Wight complained to Parliament, that John Newport, the steward of the isle, though he had but ten marks a year from his office, and had no other livelihood, yet kept an household and a countenance like a lord, with as rich wines as might be : naming himself Newport the galaunt, or Newport the rich. To maintain this style, he so acted, that ' the country daily cursed him, that ever he came there.' *Ib.* 5, p. 205.

HISTORY OF ENGLAND.

CHAP. II.

FIRST ACTS AND DIVISIONS OF THE ROYAL COUNCIL. KING
BROUGHT TO LONDON. ARREST OF LORD RIVERS. GLOU-
CESTER MADE REGENT. FURTHER PARTY CONTESTS.
DEATH OF HASTINGS.

THE funeral of Edward was attended by the lords of all the parties who were then in London; but Buckingham was not among the number¹. It is probable, that none of those who were in power at that time, wished to introduce him into it.

As Gloucester was in the marches bordering on Scotland, at Edward's death, and it had occurred so unexpectedly, the first measures of the government must have been without his participation; and therefore show the conflicts that would have occurred, independently of his interference. The royal council appointed the 4th May for the new coronation, and urged the young king to

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¹ His body was borne by sir John Cheyney, master of horse, sir Thomas Tyrrell, and others. Lord Howard bore his banneret, and these peers followed:

Earl Lincoln, Marquis Dorset, Earl Huntingdon, Viscount Berkeley,	Lord Stanley, high steward. Hastings, king's chamberlain.	Lord Dacre, queen's chamberlain. Dudley. Burgenny,	Lord Audley, Lyle, Cobham, Wellys.
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Harl. MSS. 6,111.

By the MSS. Vit. l. 17, in the Cotton. library, it appears, that Edward's mother, the duchess of York, in 1480 became a Benedictine nun. p. 250.

to come up immediately to London²: so far they were unanimous. Every one wished him to succeed to all his father's majesty³. But while so young, some sort of regency was thought necessary, or rather was desired by those who coveted power; and the first disturbing question was, to whom should this be intrusted. A division arose on this important subject. That it was aspired to, if not claimed by the queen's family, is evident, by the more prudent part of the council determining, that it should not be held by the king's maternal uncles or brothers⁴. But the decision of their votes could but produce a temporary exclusion; it still remained to be afterwards contested, as a matter of influence or power. Hence the next and most vital question arose, (and both occurred in Gloucester's absence, and without his privity at that time) with what degree of military force should the king come up from Ludlow to London. They who had decided, that the Woodvilles or Greys should not be the regents, perceived that this exclusion could not be effectuated, unless the number of the royal forces from Wales should be sufficiently restricted⁵; as resolutions in council would be useless against a superior martial force. Hastings thought, that if they came in strength, they would avenge their former resentments on him, as a long-standing ill-will had prevailed between him and this party⁶. He therefore declared, that unless the king and Rivers advanced to the metropolis, with such a retinue as could cause no alarm, he would retire to his government at Calais⁷, and there abide the issue. These feelings avowed a determination to appeal to the sword, rather than to be in the power of his political rivals. The queen's friends had the same motives to dread and distrust their antagonists. It was visibly a dangerous game of political chess, of which life and dignity were the stake. Both parties had reason to expect mortal attacks from each

² Hist. Croyl. 564.³ Ib.⁵ Croyl. 564.⁴ We learn this from Croyland, p. 564. He says, the 'prudentiores' of the council so decided it.⁶ Ib. 565.⁷ Ib.

each other, on account of preceding injuries, as well as from present competition: neither could give confidence, or expect favor; and all that could be then done, was to watch each other with balancing forces, till one of them could obtain the chances of a deciding superiority.

The queen suspended, rather than prevented, the impending battle, by proposing, that her brother's forces should be limited to 2,000 men. Hastings assented to this, because he thought that his own powers, with those of Gloucester and Buckingham, whom he now found it necessary to act with, would be fully equal to those⁸. The queen communicated the agreement to Rivers.

Gloucester was, during these transactions, in the north; and his conduct, on hearing of his brother's death, was frank, decided, honorable and loyal. He wrote to the queen kind and consoling letters, assuring her of his fidelity and duty to the king; and reaching York, he celebrated there a funeral service for Edward, with affectionate pomp; and caused all the nobility of those parts to swear fealty to the king; and, as an example, he took the oath of allegiance himself first⁹. No behaviour could avow more sincerity and good meaning than this early loyalty. It was contrary to all common policy to have fettered himself, and the nobility of the north, with the obligations of an oath to Edward, if he had then meant to supplant him. Such an action was only creating the formidable obstacles of conscience and honor against himself, without any impulsive necessity.

Artifice would have appointed the day of fealty after the coronation, instead of volunteering it before hand. The most honorable

⁸ Croyl. 565. I have taken these facts from this valuable author, who was a near spectator of these events, and had been employed by Edward IV. as one of his ambassadors, in preference to More, who could only have his account from the information of Richard's enemies.

⁹ Croyl. 565. After the funeral at York,

Richard received at night, a private messenger from Buckingham, who came to assure him; that his master would act with him, and could command 'a thousand good fellows if need were.' The same messenger met Richard again at Nottingham, before he reached Northampton. More, 252.

honorable intentions could not, at least, have acted more uprightly. It is necessary to attend to all these circumstances, because the historical probability seems to be, that Gloucester was gradually led to all that he did by the events and necessities that successively occurred, instead of having started, from the beginning, an atrocious and preternatural villain, of the foulest treachery, and the darkest deceit; a witch-born Caliban, rather than a man. The son of a high-minded father; brother of a gallant and generous king; head of a brave, chivalrous and spirited, though haughty, violent, and irascible nobility, and himself but entering the vestibule of manhood, was not likely to have been such a revolting monster.

Edward V. remained at Ludlow till the 23d of April, and there celebrated St. George's day, with those splendid entertainments, which usually distinguished the anniversary of the popular champion of England. On the 24th, he set off for London¹⁰, with his uncles, lord Rivers and lord Richard Grey, sir Thomas Vaughan, and a retinue not exceeding the appointed number.

Having seen what was done by the late king's cabinet council, at London, during Gloucester's absence, it is important to observe what the queen's friends did before he met them, and therefore, of their own free will and deliberate choice; recollecting that the minds of all parties being in a state of the most jealous suspicion, and each being in the greatest personal danger from the other, nothing but the most straight-forward, unsuspicious, and upright actions ought to have been done, till time and mutual intercourse had, if it were possible, allayed each others fears, and laid some foundation for harmonious co-operation.

The marquis Dorset took the king's treasure out of the Tower, of which he was governor, and with part of it, equipped a naval fleet¹¹.

This

¹⁰ Ross, Hist. Reg. p. 212.

¹¹ More owns this, though he says it was 'done for good purposes, and necessary, by the whole council at London', p. 167. The ecclesiastical lords may have turned the

majority of the council to sanction this measure; but it is impossible that Hastings could have assented to it, and there was no foreign dangers to make it of immediate urgency.

This was, in fact, securing it for the queen's party; and providing a force at his own command on the sea, which the compact with the queen had prevented on land. Falconbridge's attack on London, in the preceding reign, proved what a formidable attack might be made, with an hostile navy. To have taken possession of such an engine of power as the treasure of the crown, before the regent was appointed, was to have the most ready and formidable means of endangering and counteracting both him and his government.

Rivers accompanied the king to Northampton, to meet Gloucester, who set off from York for the same place. The most natural wish of the duke's mind, in its most honorable purposes, and most reasonable expectations, was to pay his homage and congratulations to his royal nephew, as soon as possible; and the candid conduct of Rivers obviously would have been, to have made the meeting as early, as frank, and as confiding as he could, if he was himself disposed to establish cordiality, or to remove any mistrust between himself and Gloucester, or between Gloucester and the king. But instead of thus acting, and as if to prevent Gloucester from any interview with his nephew, Rivers, as soon as he arrived at Northampton, sent the king thirteen miles in advance to Stoney Stratford, while he remained behind to receive the dukes of Gloucester and Buckingham; so that, when they came to Northampton, they found the king not there¹². That it was a part of Rivers's plan, that the king should hasten to London, without seeing Gloucester, seems evident, from the duke finding his sovereign early the next day, at Stratford, ready to leap on horseback, and depart forward¹³, without waiting for any one. If Rivers and the Greys had projected to keep the king exclusively in their hands, they could not have taken a more direct course to

¹² This is More's account. 'The King was in his way to London, gone from Northampton, WHEN these dukes came thither.

Where *remained behind* the lord Rivers, intending on the morrow to follow. p. 165.

¹³ More, 167.

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this object. No step could be more expressive, at least, of such an intention; and if it were adopted from mere caution, it was, at least, the measure most likely to alarm and dissatisfy Gloucester's mind, and to fill it with jealousy, and anger, and apprehension.

Buckingham reached Northampton, with 300 men, about the same time that Gloucester arrived there, with 600 gentlemen of the north, and both were introduced to Rivers. The immediate result was, a cordial meeting, and a protracted friendly banquet, between the three noblemen¹⁴. They separated for the night, with great courtesy; but while Rivers retired to his repose, happy, perhaps, that he had so managed as to give the king the start to London, the two dukes, "with a few of their most privy friends, set them down in council, wherein they spent a great part of the night¹⁵."

The discussions of this consultation are not mentioned, but we can perceive for ourselves, what subjects they had to consider. The singularity of the king's being sent on before, as if to avoid them; the fact of the queen's relations having pretended to the regency; her son Dorset, having taken possession of the king's treasure; the desire of this party, that their friends should come up from Wales, with an army of force, which only Hastings's resolution had prevented; and the certainty that when the king was in London, surrounded by his mother's friends, and exercising the royal power, it would be directed against them, by their political antagonists, from his predilections, and the queen's and her family influence;—These were topics that demanded the most anxious consideration, as they involved the safety and fortune of all who were not of the Woodville party. It was not a dark, private plotting, between Gloucester and Buckingham only; More says, that they set down in council, with a few of their most privy friends. It was, therefore, a serious discussion of their

¹⁴ More 252 and 165. Croyl. 565.

¹⁵ More, 165. Croyl. 565.

their party, on the measures proper to be taken, in a critical and perilous conjuncture. It was the same debate, in this council, which had been agitated in the cabinet council, at London; Whether the queen's family should exclude, or be excluded from the regency and government—and whether this should be determined by an appeal to open war, or by their using the opportunity that lay before them? The battle would have the disadvantage, that the king's feelings being with the Woodville's, all who opposed them must be rebels, and be attainted of treason, if they failed in arms.

The result of the deliberation was, that Rivers, Grey, and the king's friends, should be forcibly arrested; and the king be taken immediately out of their hands. Nothing can be said in justification of such conduct. It was injustice, violence, and legal though not intentional treason. But it was a resort to crime, to prevent the exertion of similar crime, apprehended to be in contemplation against themselves. It was violence anticipating violence. The action was abominable; but there seems no reason to doubt, that their apprehensions were well founded. It is in a crisis like this, that true virtue displays itself. Alarm often hurries men of mere worldly honor, sometimes, indeed, infirm rectitude itself, into vice: but genuine probity allows no circumstances of danger, or profit, ever to reduce it to think, that the end can sanctify the means; or that what is really criminal can cease to be so, because it happens to become expedient. The nobility of England were then too ambitious to be upright; and no one cared how they secured the glittering objects for which they were contending. The folly, as well as the iniquity of such conduct, is written in characters of blood and misery, in the history of England, from the elevation of Suffolk to the accession of Henry the Seventh.

At dawn, the dukes broke up their council, and privately ordering their followers to harness themselves for their journey, planted some on the road to Stoney Stratford, to prevent any one from

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from going thither without their permission, and had the keys of the inn, where they and Rivers lodged, placed before them. He rose to depart; but finding himself obstructed, went boldly to the dukes, and inquired the cause of the impediment. They accused him of setting a distance between the king and them, and of meditating to bring them to confusion; but assured him, that he should not have the power¹⁶. He attempted to excuse himself; but as he had, in fact, separated the king from them, no apologies availed. He was put into custody, and they advanced to Stoney Stratford¹⁷.

They found the king and his retinue on the point of departing for London; the allegation is, because Stratford was too small for both companies. This was no doubt the ostensible reason; which may have been true at Stratford, though it could not have been so at Northampton, where parliaments had been frequently held. As soon as they came into the king's presence, they alighted down, with all their friends; and Buckingham, ordering his gentlemen and yeomanry to go before and take their places; they approached the king in a goodly array, and saluted him on their knees, with uncovered heads, in a very humble manner¹⁸. There is no occasion to ascribe this to their hypocrisy. It was their duty, according to the custom of the age; and as their first intentions seem not to have reached beyond securing the regency and the administration, it was the natural expression of their feelings, as well-educated men.

The king received them kindly; but in a short time, in his presence, they accused lord Richard Grey of conspiring with Dorset and Rivers, to rule the king and the realm; to set variance among its estates, and to subdue and destroy the noble blood of the nation¹⁹; and they adduced the seizure of the royal treasure, by the marquis, as evidence of this design. Edward disavowed any knowledge of what Dorset had done; and strongly expressing his

¹⁶ More, 166.¹⁷ *Ib.* 167.¹⁸ More, 167. Croyl, 565.¹⁹ More, 167.

his belief, of the innocence of at least Rivers and Grey; Buckingham replied, that they had kept his good grace in ignorance of their plottings²⁰. Gloucester assured him, that he was acting in his own defence, as those persons were confederating against his honor and life²¹. Grey and Vaughan were instantly arrested; all went back to Northampton, where the dukes held again another council on their most expedient conduct²². Those events happened on Wednesday, the last day of April²³.

They discharged from the king his former attendants, and placed their own friends about him. He wept at this, but could not prevent it. At dinner, Gloucester sent from his own table a dish to lord Rivers, praying him to be of good cheer, as all should end well. The earl returned his thanks for the courtesy, but desired it might be carried to his nephew lord Richard, to whom adversity was a novelty. To this he added, that he himself had been inured to it, and therefore could bear it better²⁴. The arrested noblemen were then sent to different castles in Yorkshire. There is no evidence, that at this period, Gloucester intended to destroy them, whatever might be the wishes of Hastings. The duke was coming to town to obtain the regency, and to judge for himself of the state of the different parties, and of the line of conduct he should pursue. He had, as yet, no interest to do more than to depress the queen's party till he was settled as regent. By what coalitions he should most securely possess and exercise his dignity, and secure the king's future favor, he had yet to ascertain. It was not become quite visible, whether Hastings or the Woodvilles would act most submitingly or most cordially with him.

But

²⁰ More, 168.

²¹ Croyl. 565. Rous, who lived at the time, says, they were conspired against, because they had contrived the duke's death, p. 213. So that this was the belief at the time.

²² More, 168.

²³ Croyl. Ib.

²⁴ More, 168. Rivers mentioned the same

feeling six years before, in the introduction to his 'Dictes,' when he said of himself, 'every human creature is subject to the storms of fortune, and perplexed with worldly adversity, of which he had largely had his part; but having been relieved by the goodness of God, he was exhorted to dispose his recovered life to his service.' Oldys, Brit. Lib. 65.

But thus far it is clear, that Rivers had thrown himself into the lion's mouth, and provoked its grasp by his own refining policy. The very act of sending the king forward to London, by which he thought to put him out of Gloucester's reach or influence, occasioned both himself and his nephew to fall into Richard's power; for by dividing, in this manner, the forces he had brought with him, he enabled Gloucester, by his superior numbers, to disarm him at Northampton, and in the same manner to overpower his friends at Stratford. If he had kept the king with him at Northampton, this could not have been attempted, as the followers of both the dukes amounted but to 900 men. But the separation gave his antagonists both the temptation and the opportunity to do what they effected. Gloucester ordered all those who had accompanied the king from Ludlow, to withdraw from the town, and not to come near the places where he resided, on pain of death²⁵.

1 May.

A little before midnight, the news of these transactions arrived in London. The queen, terrified, immediately left her palace with her youngest son and daughters, and lodged herself in the sanctuary of the abbots residence²⁶. Hastings, who approved of what had been done at Northampton, sent the communication of it to the chancellor archbishop, then in bed, with an assurance, that there was no cause for any apprehension, but that all would be well²⁷. But the prelate went immediately with his household, "every man weaponed," to the queen. He found all her servants busy in taking into the sanctuary her coffers and goods; but herself sitting alone on the rushes, all desolate and dismayed. He strove to comfort her by the chamberlain's message; but she told him, that Hastings was one of those who was laboring to destroy both her and her blood. He promised her, that if they crowned any other than her eldest son, he and his friends would, the next day, make

²⁵ Croyl. His preceptor Alcock, bishop of Worcester, was removed with the rest. Rous, 213.

²⁶ Croyl. 565. More, 169.

²⁷ The prelate's foreseeing reply to him was, 'Be it as well as it will, it will never be so well, as we have seen it'. More, 169.

make her youngest, king, and delivered into her hands, the great seal for the benefit of her son²⁸.

The next day all was commotion, curiosity, murmurs, discussion, and conjecture, in the metropolis. The active and zealous immediately took their different sides—all armed themselves; some went to the queen, and others to Hastings²⁹, and a deadly conflict appeared approaching. The peers of Parliament assembled; the chancellor, anticipating that his hastiness would be censured, sent to her for the seals back again: and Hastings assured the lords, that Gloucester was faithful to the king; and that the arrested persons had been secured, not for his majesty's jeopardy, but for their own plots against their antagonists, and would be detained only till they could be fairly examined and judged³⁰. He caused it to be publicly dispersed, that the dukes were bringing up the king, expressly for his coronation; and that the Woodville party had been contriving the destruction of the noble blood of the kingdom, that they alone might govern the king at their pleasure³¹. It is too probable that these representations either were true, or would have been soon made so. It was the unhappy state of the case, that one party was certain of so acting towards the other. The only difference was, that Rivers had given to his competitors the opportunity of being the first agents; and after an anxious deliberation, they had promptly seized and effectually used it. It is manifest, that thus far Gloucester had done nothing but what Buckingham, Hastings, and their friends, wished, approved and, thought necessary.

The metropolis was soon quieted, by tidings of the king's approach to London. The lord mayor, sheriffs and aldermen, in their scarlet gowns, and 500 citizens on horseback, in velvet, met the king at Hornsey, and accompanied him into the city, to the bishop's

²⁸ More, 170.

²⁹ Ib. Croyl. 566.

³⁰ Ib. 171, 2.

³¹ Ib. 172. Carts of armor were taken to

London by the duke's servants, as evidence of the preparations that had been making by Rivers and his friends, to effectuate what they were charged with, 173.

bishop's palace at St. Paul's, on the 4th of May. Gloucester was seen by all, behaving to him with that demeanour of reverential humility³², with uncovered head and humble bows, with which the sovereign was then attended. Soon afterwards, all the peers took the oath of fealty to Edward.

But the arrival of the king in the metropolis set all the feelings of ambition into full activity. He was found to be an interesting prince, of pleasing manners, and of cultivated and advancing mind³³. He was in his 14th year; and the first considerations that occurred were, as to the necessity of a regency, its nature, and the person who should exercise it.

From his proximity of blood, there could be no competitor with Gloucester, as the fittest person; but he was not made regent. The precedent under Henry VI. of appointing a protector and defender only, was carefully followed³⁴; and, in this instance, the exercise of the royal authority was intrusted to a superadded council of regency³⁵. From a loss of the parliamentary documents, we cannot specify from the records, the members of this council, as in the case of Henry VI.; but the names of those who acted will afterwards appear. Gloucester seems to have been first nominated, or suggested to be protector, by the government council.

On the 13th of May, a new parliament was summoned to meet on the 25th day of June³⁶; yet a parliamentary meeting took place in May, for the historian of Croyland mentions, 'that the residence of Edward was discussed' in the senate; and I have found the

³² More, 173.

³³ More says, of both him and his brother, that they 'had as many gifts of nature; as many princely virtues; as much goodly towardness, as their age could receive, p. 152. Rous describes him as of 'mirabilis ingenii, et in literatura, pro tempore suo, optime expeditur,' p. 212.

³⁴ 'Accepit illum solennem magistratum, qui duci Humfrido Glocestre, stante minore ætate regis Henrici, ut regni protector ap-

pellaretur, olim contingebat.' Hist. Croyl. 566.

³⁵ See before, p. 8, 24.

³⁶ We learn this new fact from the register at Lambeth, which has preserved the summons to the archbishop; it is dated 13 May, and states, that the king had ordered a Parliament to meet on 25 June. It has been printed in the royal wills, p. 347. As it does not mention the protectorate, it shows that this did not exist on 13 May.

the copy of a speech delivered from the throne³⁷, to the three estates of the kingdom, as assembled in parliament, in the name of Edward V. and in his presence, as also before the duke of Gloucester. The probability is, that the late king's chancellor and ministry continuing at first in office, summoned the members of the parliament existing at his demise, to meet for present exigencies; and that a new one was ordered to be summoned³⁸. This official speech proves, that the youthful sovereign was brought by his uncle, to meet his parliament in the usual royal manner³⁹. The address is made to it, not in the protector's name, but in the sovereign's⁴⁰; it was delivered to the lords and commons in Edward's presence, whom he styles "Kyng Edward the Fifth⁴¹." This speech was made to both lords and commons, as if in full parliament before the throne⁴². The king is there spoken of to his

³⁷ It is in the Cotton. MSS. Vitell. E. 10. It has been so much injured by fire, and is so burnt round the edges, that the commencement and speaker's name are destroyed. Like most of the speeches by which parliament was then opened, if a bishop was the chancellor, it begins with a scripture 'texte, such as I found yn the divine service of yestyrday's fest.' These words imply that the speech was made on a Monday.

³⁸ As the first act of Richard, as protector, is dated the 19th May, and the first grant of Edward from the Tower is on the same day, and as that day in May 1483 was on a Monday, I would infer that this speech was delivered, and the protectorate appointed, on the 19th May. The two acts alluded to, are in Harl. MSS. N° 433.

³⁹ After mentioning, that in kingdoms 'theyr public body ys compowned of three notable partes; the prince, the nobles, and the people.'—It adds, 'and therefore having to speke at thys tyme of all three as *they be nowe here assembled* for the wele of thys most noble and famous reme of England.' MSS. Vitell. E. 10.

⁴⁰ The speaker says, 'My mynd is, that thys schuld be the word of the kyng, and by me to be spoken at thys tyme in hys name.'—He then personifies his royal master, and adds, 'God hath called me at my tender age, to be your kyng and sovereign.' MSS. ib.

⁴¹ After his texte he says, 'the whych to my purpose implyeth the present estate of our nobles, our commons, and our glorious prince and kyng, Edward the Fifth, *here present*.'—In another part he mentioned, 'Wele ys this young prince our sovereign lord here present, set between two brethren, that one his fadyr; that other hys uncle:—This would seem to imply, that there was some picture or statue of the late king near the throne. It proceeds, 'The rule of the first (his father) is determined by the over-hastely course of nature. The second (Gloucester) is ordeyned as next in perfect age of the blod ryall, to be hys tutor and protector, to take example of majorall kunnyng, felicite, and experience.' MSS. ib.

⁴² The speaker, representing the king, says, 'First, to you, right noble lordys spiritual and temporal; secondly, to you, worshipful syrres,

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his people, in terms of the highest eulogy⁴³, Gloucester himself attending; a source of popularity to Edward, which his uncle would never have suffered, if he had then intended to depose him⁴⁴.

That it was a parliamentary body he was addressing, appears from its being expressly so mentioned⁴⁵. He urges it to confirm to Richard his title of protector, "That at the departynge of the lordys, and of such as ben here for the commons, everich to their proper home, the armes, hand and fete of thys gret body of England; the kyng may have cause largely to rejoyse, and say to my lord protector, his uncle, here present, 'Uncle! I am glad to have you confirmed in this place, to be my protector'⁴⁶."

We

syrres, representing the commons, God hath called me, at my tender age, to be your kyng and sovereign.' MSS. Ib.—In the quaint style of that day, which was thought rich eloquence, it digresses to state, that 'the cosmographers, which have left to us in their writings the description of the round world,' had divided it into land and water, with rivers. This was to lay a basis for the following comparison.—'And therefore the *noble* persons of the world, which some for the merth of their ancestors; some for their own virtues, been endued with gret havours, possessions, and riches, may more conveniently be resembled unto the *ferme ground* that men see in the land. Then the *common people*, which for lack of such endument not possible to be departed among so many, and therefore living by their casual labours, be, not without cause, likened to the unstable and wavering running water.' MSS. Ib.

⁴³ After mentioning the grants from parliament to other kings, he exclaims, in a very ingenious appeal to their liberality, 'Who can suppose, but that they that see the most toward and virtuous disposition of our sovereign lord that *now is*; his gentyl witte, and ripe understanding, far passing the nature of his youth;—who can think, but that the lords and commons of this land will as agreeably purvey for the sure maintenance of his high estate,

as any of their predecessors have done to any other kyng of England afore?' MSS. Ib.

⁴⁴ The speech also praises Gloucester 'considered the necessary charge, which, in the tyme of the kyng's tender age, must nedely be borne and supported by the right noble and famous prince the duke of Gloucester, his uncle, protector of the reme; in whose great prudence, wisdom, and fortunes, restyth, at this seson, the execution of the defence of this reme; as well against the open enemies as against the *subtyl and faynt friends* of the same.' MSS. Ib. It also says, of the tutele and oversight of the kyngs most royal person during the years of tenderness, my said lord protector will acquit himself like to Marcus Emilius Lepidus. MSS. ib.

⁴⁵ 'The power and auctorite of my lord protector is so behoffull and of reason to be assented and established by the auctorite of *this* hygh court, that among all the causes of the assembling of the parliament in thys tyme of the yere, thys is the grettest and most necessarie to be affermed. God graunte, that this matter, and sych others as of necessite owyth to be first moved for the use of the kyng, and the defence of thys lond, may have suche goode expedition yn thys hygh courte of parliament, as the ease of the people, and the condition and the tyme requireth.' MSS. ib.

⁴⁶ MSS. Ib. The speech ends with this intimation,

We have no official detail of what was done in this parliamentary meeting. That Richard was appointed protector, appears from all the subsequent events; and it is mentioned, that it was publicly discussed in the senate⁴⁷, in what more suitable place than the bishop's palace the king should reside. Some named the Priory of St. John's, Clerkenwell, and others Westminster; but Buckingham recommending the Tower, this was thought to be so proper, that even they who had wished otherwise, assented to it⁴⁸; and the king removed thither. The coronation was recommended to be about Midsummer.

We shall misconceive the state of things, if we suppose that Richard had, at this moment, the power of commanding events, or of perpetrating what he pleased; or could as he wished, control the king. He had at this period no military force of his own, to overawe any party; for that which he afterwards wanted and obtained, did not come up till the end of June, after he had taken the throne⁴⁹. He was now in the same sea of trouble, ambition, and conflict, in which all the great men were then engaged; and was in equal danger and in equal uncertainty, even of his own interests and dignity, as any of those who then surrounded him.

His political position, at this juncture, has not been considered; but if duly contemplated, will be found to have been peculiar and critical. He was not made regent like his father, in Henry's illness, but he was appointed protector, after the precedent of the same dignity, in the minority of Henry VI.; but this, as already mentioned, conferred no actual power. It invested him with nominal

intimation, which proves that Richard had been named protector before, by the lords of the council, as More intimates, p. 172; and that it did not become a parliamentary appointment until the end of May. This is an important fact in distinguishing Richard's real plans and motives; because it shows, that he had not been fully seated in this dignity until this time; and therefore till the parliament affirmed it, the honour remained in sufficient

doubt and uncertainty, considering the state of parties, to agitate Richard's mind.

⁴⁷ Hist. Croyl. 'Sermo in senatu.' p. 566.

⁴⁸ 'In ejus sententiam ab omnibus etiam qui id nolebant verbis, itum est. Ib. By Edward's grants it appears, that he was in the bishop's palace on the 9th May, and in the Tower on the 19th. Harl. MSS. N° 433, p. 221, 2.

⁴⁹ See further.

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nominal and presiding dignity, but made him only one of the lords of the council of regency⁵⁰. This precedent left him under the anxiety of even this conferred dignity ceasing as soon as Edward was crowned. No writer has attended to this fact. Henry VI. was crowned at eight years of age, for the express purpose of terminating the protectorial office⁵¹. According to this precedent, Richard's dignity would cease at Edward's coronation, and if so, would not last two months. Hence the question could not fail to be in Gloucester's mind, Whether it was meant, that he should be dispossessed of it, like his namesake, at that period. This would, in the first instance, depend on what the majority of the cabinet council, or council of regency, should determine; and this majority would either rest on the conduct of Hastings, or on the superior influence of the queen's party, if that should be the greatest. The same point would also remain in the decision of the new parliament, which was to meet on the 25th of June. If thus degraded, he would be like the former Gloucester, but a lord of regency; thwarted, disregarded, endangered; and at last attacked, as he was⁵².

For he had been led to place himself in still greater personal jeopardy, than that unfortunate prince. That by acquiescing in the plans of Buckingham and Hastings, to arrest Rivers and Grey, he had deeply offended both them and the king, and also the queen, is palpable, and is confessed. He had therefore every thing to dread from the royal resentment, as Buckingham and Hastings also had, as soon as the king attained a fuller age. The queen did not disguise her mistrust and dread⁵³. Gloucester had therefore, nothing but peril before him; and needed as much protection and assistance as any other of the then agitated peerage.

But from whom could Gloucester procure this aid and safety.

He

⁵⁰ See before, p. 24 and 110.

⁵¹ See before, p. 111.

⁵² See before, p. 148.

⁵³ More 170 and 192.

He could not obtain it from the nation against the king, without direct rebellion, civil war, and all its crimes and evils. His strength could only be made up, by the adhesion to his interest of the powerful great. But from which of these was he to acquire that cordial alliance and co-operation, which would prolong his protectorate, shield him against the king's future anger, and against the present effect and plans of all those who, knowing the king's feelings and wishes, would be every day confederating against him? Who would erect for him, a general banner of safety, in that stormy day, against the competitions and combinations of the nobles themselves, and amid the conflict and alarms of the church establishment, and of the emerging feelings and antipathies of the people?

The leaders of the church, who were in the council, were not his friends. They had been in the confidence of Edward; they favored his queen—they would not fail to ally themselves with her son. Indeed, their relation, as the chosen executors of his last will⁵⁴, made this bias a species of pious duty, in addition to their moral loyalty. Rotherham, the archbishop of York, having displayed an instability of mind, or being less able, was displaced; and John Russell, the bishop of Lincoln, was appointed the lord chancellor, in his stead⁵⁵. His abilities and character are highly praised⁵⁶; but he had been Edward's privy seal, and therefore was to be considered as one of the supporters of the young king's interests, and, as connected with them, of his feelings likewise.

Morton, the bishop of Ely, was decidedly on that side; and being a man of very superior talents⁵⁷, would probably take the lead against the protector, as the cardinal of Winchester had done under

⁵⁴ The executors appointed by Edward IV. were the archbishop of York, the bishops of Lincoln, Chichester, and Ely; Hastings, Stanley and sir Thomas Montgomery. Royal Wills, p. 348. The will is not now extant.

⁵⁵ More, 174.

⁵⁶ 'A wise man and a good, and of much

experience, and one of the best learned men, undoubtedly, that England had in his time.' More, p. 174.

⁵⁷ See his character in More's Hist. 254, 5. But sir Thomas describes him most fully in the Utopia, p. 20.

under Henry VI. It was not, therefore, on the ecclesiastical part of the ruling council, that Gloucester could rely for his support.

Of the lay lords, the most prominent, the most powerful, the most active, and the most formidable, and one of the most ambitious, was Hastings. Grateful for twenty years of patronage and kindness, from Edward IV. he was the natural and zealous friend of his son, with no limitation but his resentment against Rivers, for former competitions and conceived wrongs, and from present rivalry and alarm. He had joined Gloucester, to put down Rivers and the Greys, not from affection to Richard, or from alienation to Edward, but from fear and aversion to them. Their arrest and imprisonment took them out of the present field of ambition, and made him the most important friend of the young king; and the natural centre in the metropolis, of all the feelings, interests, and passions, that were attached to Edward's power and reign. This position put Hastings into the first rank of opposition against Gloucester. He stood as the bulwark, shield, and sword of all the parties, and their interests, who did not make Gloucester their patron. Whether he chose it or not, the natural state of things thus placed and kept him: and the release of Rivers, to dispute with him the pre-eminence as the king's friend, could alone alter this situation.

Hence it does not seem possible, that Hastings and Gloucester could long act cordially together. But as the protector had the Rivers and Grey in the hands of his friends, he possessed some control over the mind of the lord chamberlain. To make his power and influence certain, against these dangerous, and now indignant, though imprisoned rivals, Hastings had concurred in council, to have them tried and executed⁵⁸. It was the selfish interest of Hastings, to obtain this foul act, because while they lived,

⁵⁸ See More, 202, 207, and 214. Hastings expected them to be beheaded the day he was arrested. *Ib.*

lived, Gloucester might seek to please the king, by liberating and uniting with them; and that would ensure the destruction of the hostile chamberlain: and if the protector did not use this policy, nor threaten it, yet if by any other means, they should obtain their release, they would immediately supersede him in the affections of his sovereign.

The party, whom we have called the queen's friends, though from the king's identity of feeling with them, they may be now, more properly considered as his interior and immediate party, is represented in the speech, ascribed by Moore, to Hastings, as equal in strength to what opposed them⁵⁹. Two of their leaders, the marquis of Dorset and lord Lyle, were yet in the metropolis, though in sanctuary; and therefore this body of active partizans, whom every day of the king's reign would, from natural expectation of future advantages, increase, was peculiarly formidable to Richard. It was irreconcilable with his protectorship and interests; and from the dreaded part which he had taken against Rivers and Grey, it was personally threatening, both to his liberty and life. Stanley was another nobleman, attached to the late king, who befriended, though more disinterestedly than Hastings, the young sovereign and his future sway.

To combat all these opposing powers, Richard found some nobles, at present, from their own interested motives, desirous to ally with him. These were the aspiring great, who were not in official situations at Edward's death—Buckingham, and the lords Howard, Lovel, and Northumberland; with others of inferior rank, who sought promotion under him, as sir Richard Ratcliff, the Brakenburys, Tyrells, and a few others.

In calculating his future position and perils, Richard had likewise to recollect, that the duke of Gloucester, in the reign of Richard II.

⁵⁹ Hastings so put the case, in his address to the council, after the onset at Northampton; 'which strife, if it should hap, as it were likely, to come to a field, *tho both parties were in all other things equal*, yet should the authority be on that side where the king is himself.' More, 172.

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Richard II. had been destroyed by that king, from political oppositions, although his uncle⁶⁰: and that the last duke of Gloucester, notwithstanding he was uncle to the reigning sovereign, and his presumptive heir, had, with the use or abuse of the royal authority, been arrested; and that his imprisonment had been followed by an immediate mysterious death⁶¹.

Richard could not be blind to the motives of Hastings, in pressing the deaths of Rivers and Grey; and this may have been one of his inducements to delay any further proceedings against them. But this delay would also tend to cause Hastings to mistrust Gloucester's future intentions.

Thus stood Hastings and Gloucester with respect to each other, on the king's arrival in London. The life or death of either depended on the conduct, which each should adopt towards the king and his friends, as well as towards each other. The union of either with the king's friends, was certain to be the degradation or destruction of the other.

Nothing could prevent the danger which hung over every one of these great nobles, but a general coalition and reconciliation of all. As the public anxiety for internal peace, and their dread of that civil warfare which all thought to be likely, was very great, we cannot doubt that every effort was made to accomplish this end. The principal churchmen were deeply interested in the maintenance of peace, and must have labored to produce it; but the pride and passions, and worldly interests of the competing parties, prevented this happy result. Rivers and Grey were still detained; Hastings continued hostile to them; the queen remained in sanctuary; her son Dorset, and her other relations, kept themselves in the same state. The king was therefore hostile to the protector and Buckingham, who had begun the attack on his beloved relations; and all the jealousies, expectations and apprehensions of the contending great, remained as strong and as unappeased as before. The monk

⁶⁰ See the 2d vol. of this history, p. 229.

⁶¹ See before, p. 150.

monk of Croyland mentions, that Hastings publicly exulted, that the government had been taken from the queen's family without any bloodshed, and that all men hoped for peace and prosperity; but that the continued detention of Rivers and Grey, and the protector's not exhibiting a courteous attention to the queen's honor and safety, created some doubts and anxieties⁶².

From causes not explained, but probably resulting from this disordered state of things, the executors of the late king deferred the proving of his will, or intermeddling with his property⁶³; and, in consequence of this conduct, on the 12th of May, the two archbishops and eight bishops met Gloucester and Buckingham, Hastings, Stanley, and some other noblemen, at the king's grandmother's, the duchess of York, at her house near St. Paul's wharf; and the cardinal of Canterbury put all the late king's jewels under ecclesiastical sequestration, that they might not be wasted⁶⁴. Nothing more strongly implies the unsettled condition of the kingdom and government, than this measure. Neither party could let the other have the advantage of the possession of so much property; therefore the executors would not act; and it was placed in a state of neutrality, out of the immediate reach of either. Eleven days afterwards, the ecclesiastical authority was resorted to, that enough might be sold to pay the expenses of the funeral⁶⁵.

Richard had before him but three courses to chuse from, for his future path of action. A coalition with the king's friends and family; a cordial union with Hastings; or the formation of a distinct interest, independent of both the former, and capable of maintaining itself against them.

The

⁶² Croyl. 566.

⁶³ See the extracts from the Lambeth Register, in the Royal Wills, p. 347.

⁶⁴ Ib. 347. One of these bishops was Alcock, bishop of Worcester, which shows, that on the 12th May, the king had procured leave for him to come to London, though he had been driven from him at Northampton.

The other bishops were, Kemp, of London, Wainfleet, of Winchester; Stillington, of Bath and Wells; Story, of Chichester; Russell, of Lincoln; Morton, of Ely; and Audley, of Rochester. Royal Wills, 947.

⁶⁵ The expenses of the king's funeral were stated to be £.1,496. 17s. 2d. Ib. 348.

The most natural, the most loyal, and the most moral path, was to have pleased the king and queen, by releasing Rivers and Grey, and by coalescing with them against all their enemies. But in the unfortunate state of the opposing resentments and interests, this could not be done without opposing or destroying Hastings and Buckingham, Howard, and probably others of the nobility; and it was not probable that their destruction could be accomplished without a previous war. But by coinciding so immediately with the politics of Buckingham and Hastings at Northampton, he had fettered himself strongly, with all the ties of honor, not to attempt this coalition. It is also probable, that the hints which were conveyed to Buckingham, on the same points, were also suggested, or occurred to himself; namely, that he had already sinned unpardonably against the king and queen mother, and her friends, by the alarm and disgrace to which he had subjected them; and that they would use, but never cordially forgive him⁶⁶. Richard had taken the wrong step, in acquiescing with his Northampton advisers; and he could not now retrieve it. Personal ambition, and his former differences with the queen and her friends, concurred to lead him to the determination not to ally with them.

The next question would be, Was a cordial union with Hastings practicable; but this would depend upon another, Whether this lord desired it on such terms as Richard could concede.

Buckingham had attached himself to Richard; hence, before any stable union could take place between Hastings and the protector, it must be decided whether Hastings or Buckingham, and their respective friends, should have the pre-eminence in the new administration, and its consequential benefits. If there had been no aspiring Buckingham, Howard or Lovel, it is probable that Hastings and Richard could have soon agreed on the king's coronation, and on a protracted protectorate. Hastings would have willingly become his first minister, and Richard would not have molested his nephew's reign.

⁶⁶ See More, 196.

reign. But for this to take place, Buckingham must be disappointed, and made inferior; or Hastings, accustomed to fill the first situation at court and office, must suddenly consent to be the inferior of a new aspirant. There was nothing in all the feelings and habits that composed an ambitious nobleman of that day, which could submit to this. Hastings and Buckingham stood in this irreconcilable relation, and with these unappeasable jealousies towards each other⁶⁷; and as Richard must have quarrelled with the duke, to satisfy the chamberlain, it was scarcely possible that they could coalesce. That Richard loved Hastings, and tried to persuade him to co-operate with him, is stated by More; though he makes the point of difference, suggestions as to the elevation of Richard to the throne. It is more probable, that the first negotiations were for a prolonged protectorate during the king's minority, and a cordial coalition of their parties and interests; and that these friendly efforts failed, because the interest and ambition of Buckingham and Hastings could not be united.

The third course, that which Richard adopted, was the formation of a distinct and independent interest of his own, capable of standing against every other, and beating down what opposed. Four noblemen, three of the greatest weight and rank, offered themselves for this purpose, and solicited him to pursue it; the duke of Buckingham, lord Howard, lord Lovel, and the earl of Northumberland. It was their interest that he should not coalesce with either Hastings or the Woodvilles; and they united with him against them. How far they looked forward to the inevitable result of this policy at the outset, we cannot now determine. It is probable, that they considered nothing but the humiliation, imprisonment, exile, or even destruction of the individual nobles who opposed them; and they may have thought, that the deaths of Rivers, Hastings and Grey, would be sufficient to beat down all competition,

⁶⁷ More says of them, 'These two, *not bearing to each other so much love as hatred*

both unto the queen's party,' p. 163.

⁶⁸ More, 200.

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competition, and to establish their power, and to continue Richard's protectorship. To these events, the noble consciences of that day cherished no repugnance. It was in the common course of their competitions to do such things, and they had been in several reigns repeated without scruple. With these sentiments, they prepared to co-operate, without hesitation, to these direful incidents; and Richard himself may at first have acted with the same self-blinded view. These violences, however, would be soon found to make other actions, still more revolting, though scarcely more criminal, necessary; and in determining on this course, Richard virtually, though not, perhaps, at first intentionally, resolved to perpetrate all that followed, and which he ought to have foreseen was certain to ensue.

The young king's real situation, at this period, must be also adverted to. There is neither any appearance, nor any probability, that he was immured or secluded. His meeting the lords and commons in parliament⁶⁹—his residence in the Tower being appointed by them—his public acts signed, on some days in the Tower, and on others at Westminster⁷⁰—the presence of the bishop, his preceptor, in London⁷¹—the interest of all parties to conciliate him—the zealous friendship of Hastings, Stanley, and the great clergy for him, and the popular attachment to him—leave us no doubt that, during the month of May, and in the first two weeks of June, he was under no confinement, or unroyal restraint. Up to this period, all that was done appears to have been transacted with the approbation or concurrence of the head nobility; and therefore it seems reasonable to infer, that the usual access to minor kings was not denied to all suitable persons. With this previous review of the actual state of things, we proceed to

⁶⁹ See before, p. (note 39.)

⁷⁰ There are six royal acts dated from Westminster, in the months of May and June, 12 Rym. 180, 7. These imply, that Edward

went from the Tower to meet his council at Westminster, as occasion required.

⁷¹ See before, p. 433.

to narrate such of the succeeding incidents as the scanty materials that we can now procure will enable us to detail.

On the 13th of May, the four great friends of Richard's distinct party received liberal grants. Lord Howard was made head seneschal of the duchy of Lancaster, and admiral of England, with other large fees⁷²; and the next day, Buckingham was appointed constable of all the castles in five counties, capital justiciary and chamberlain of North and South Wales, and of various castles there, and also constable and seneschal of Monmouth and the duchy of Lancaster⁷³. Lord Lovel was also benefited by the office of chief butler, which Rivers had enjoyed⁷⁴; and to one of the Nevilles was given Pomfret castle⁷⁵. Thus the aspiring nobles were gratified, as well as the official ones; and the queen's relations only had hitherto suffered.

Every one exists amid surrounding circles of circumstances, and with varying successions of events, by which he will be materially affected in the consecutive periods of his life. These are what may be called the impelling necessities of things to him, and they will considerably influence his conduct. If he be a weak man, and of no moral energies, education or habits, they will probably govern him, as animals are overruled by what acts upon their senses, who obey the immediate motive, without any foresight or consideration of the consequences. But every intelligent being knows that he has a reason to use, and duties to perform; and that he must discern and select from the impelling circumstances that approach him, those which he ought to obey, and those which he ought to resist. We all know, that we have to consider the consequences of what we may be urged to do, both to ourselves and to others. We soon learn, if we chuse, that we may acquire the habit of exerting this foresight, and of making the selection; and we ought not to yield to any impulse or persuasion, that

⁷² Harl. MSS. N° 433, p. 23—6. Several manors were also given to him; and his son was made steward of the same duchy in Norfolk. *Ib.*

⁷³ Harl. MSS. p. 6—12.

⁷⁴ *Ib.* p. 223.

⁷⁵ *Ib.*

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that will occasion us to injure another's welfare, or our own. If our temper be too feeble to use this discrimination, we are invited to apply for superior assistance.

Richard was, like other men, surrounded with circumstances that were connected with evil, as well as with those which were associated with good. Like all men, he had to make his election between these; and his moral freedom was equal to his moral obligations. His choice lay among difficulties, dangers and temptations, but so does every man's path; and it is this which makes self-government, wise tuition, fixed principles, and the divine aid, so essential to us all. The daily experience of life gives constant evidence, that these are attainable by every one who will direct his mind to their acquisition; and perhaps our greatest safeguard is, to cultivate not only that moral delicacy of spirit, which, like Almorán's ring, will pain us at the first approach of what is wrong; but also the habit of immediately obeying its admonition, and abstaining from what it censures, though we may not be immediately satisfied why the forbearance should be necessary.

The month of May closed, and June opened with these conflicting interests unreconciled, and therefore with all the materials of storm preparing to explode; though it was not as yet certain who would be the first aggressors, or who the earliest victims.

On the 5th of June, the protector proceeded to announce Edward's coronation to have been fixed for the 22d of that month; and he caused official letters to be written, in the king's name, to forty esquires, summoning them to prepare themselves to receive, as the document expresses, "the noble order of knighthood, at our coronation, which, by God's grace, we intend shall be solemnized on the 22d day of this present month, at our palace of Westminster; commanding you to be here at our Tower of London, four days afore our said coronation, to have communication of our commands⁷⁶."

The

⁷⁶ This letter is copied in the Harl. MSS. N^o 433. p. 227, and has been printed by Rymer, v. 12, p. 185. It is addressed to Otes Gilbert, esquire, and purports to be, 'by

the advice of our derrest uncle the duc of Gloucester, protector of this oure royaume during our yong age, and of the lords of our counsel.' Ib.

The protector also sent for the lords, from all parts of the realm, to be present at the ceremony⁷⁷.

On the 8th of June—it is necessary to advance by days, and to mark them with precision, in order to elicit the exact truth amid so much obscurity and prejudice—this political harmony continued unbroken. On that day, Gloucester wrote a letter, from the Tower, to the mayor and corporation of York, reciting their application to him, to move the king for a diminution of their yearly payments to him, in consideration of the expences they had incurred in the public service: and stating to them, that he had not then convenient leisure to accomplish their business; but declaring, that he would be their especial good and loving lord. He ended, by recommending his servant Thomas Brackenbury, the bearer of the letter, to their credence and favor⁷⁸.

But two days afterwards, a document appears, preserved also in the public records at York, which shows, that the political serenity had suddenly changed into an aspect of the most fearful storm. On the 10th of June, the protector sent sir Richard Ratcliffe from London, with a letter to the same mayor and corporation⁷⁹, written in a tone of emphatic earnestness and alarm; charging

⁷⁷ More's words are, 'The lords being sent for from all parts of the realm, *came thick* to that solemnity'. p. 197.

⁷⁸ Mr. Drake has printed this document, ex libro chart. at York, in his *Eboracum*, p. 115. The corporation's letter of supplication to Gloucester, had been delivered to him by *John* Brackenbury; and he returned this answer by *Thomas* Brackenbury. It is thus dated. 'Given under our signet, at the Tower of London, the 8th day of June.' *Ib.*

⁷⁹ We will give this important letter at length, that the reader may judge for himself of the urgency of its style and feeling:

'The duc of Gloucestre, brother and uncle of kynges, protectour, defensour, gret chamberleyne, constable, and admiral of England.

'Right trusty and well beloved, wee greet

you well. And as you love the wele of us, and the wele and surety of your own self, we heartily pray you to come up unto us to London, in all the diligence ye can possible, after the sight hereof, with as many as ye can make defensively arrayed; there to aid and assist us against the queen, her bloody adherents and affinity, which have entended, and daily do entend, to murder and utterly destroy us and our cousyn the duc of Buckingham, and the old royal blood of the realm: And as it is now *openly known* by their subtle and dampnable wais forecasted the same; and also the final destruction and disherison of you and all odyr the enheriters and men of honor, as well of the north part. as odyr countrees that belongen unto us; as eu trusty servant, this bearer, shall more at large show you; to whom we pray you to give credence, and

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charging the queen, and “her bloody adherents and affiinty,” with intending to murder and destroy him and the duke of Buckingham, and the old royal blood of the realm; and urging the city authorities at York, to come up to London in all the diligence possible, with as many as they could have defensibly arrayed, to aid and assist him. He conjures them not to fail, but to hasten to him⁸⁰.

What particular facts had occurred, or been discovered by Richard, between the 8th and the 10th of June, to have thus excited and endangered him and Buckingham, beyond the general state of things, has not been transmitted to us. Ratcliffe was instructed to show to the corporation of York, “the subtle and dampnable ways” of the queen and her adherents; but they are not particularized in any existing record.

The appointment of the coronation for the 22d, and of the meeting of parliament for the 25th of June, made the question every day more pressing, Whether the protectorate should then cease, or be continued. Friendly negotiations having failed to produce a cordial coalition, we can have little doubt, that both parties were preparing to decide it by a trial of strength. As the lords came in, the adherents of each would increase; and it only remained to see who would have the greatest power, and could strike the first blow. Richard charged Hastings with having contrived and settled to seize him, on that day on which he secured the lord chamberlain, by anticipating violence.

We cannot now decide, with certainty, on their mutual accusations. But that the king and queen’s friends, and all who did not unite with Richard, would make use of the coronation to end the protectorship, is highly probable, from the recollection of Henry’s precedent. The government would then be wholly lodged,

and as ever we may do for you in tyme comyng. Fail not; but haste you to us. Given under our signet at London, the 10th of June.’ Ib,

⁸⁰ The York record states, that this letter was delivered by sir Richard Ratcliffe to the mayor, on the 15th June. Drake, Ib,

lodged, as it was under him, in a council of lords of regency; and these would be selected from the adherents of the dominant faction. Hence, as the coronation of Edward came nearer, it tended to bring all the intrigues and ambition of the yet contending interests to an actual explosion; and to present an epoch peculiarly dangerous to Gloucester's authority, and, unless he patiently acquiesced in his own degradation, also to his life. No one of the former minor kings, Henry III. Edward III. Richard II. or Henry VI. had a protector after they were crowned.

I have searched to see if any document could be found, that would ascertain whether attempts were making, at this crisis, to put aside the protector; and I have observed two documents, whose application to this dark and difficult subject has not been yet noticed, which seem to me to imply, that Richard's allegation of intrigues against him was not so unfounded as it is usually represented. I will state the impression they make on my mind; my readers must judge for themselves.

From the time that Richard was appointed protector by the parliament, the legal style of the royal acts and grants became "by the advice of our uncle, Richard duke of Gloucester, protector and defender⁸¹." This phrase appears in the first instrument that was made after this dignity had been conferred; and it is an invariable part of every other dated from the Tower, up to the fifth of June. All the acts of the crown, executed with Richard's privity, were thus done with the expressed concurrence of the protector: and from the natural jealousy of new power, we cannot doubt that he would never allow the important expressions to be omitted in any public paper that he knew of, or that originated from him; they became a necessary part of the legal official phraseology; nor

⁸¹ The grants in the name of Edward V. of the 19th, 20th, 21st, 23d, 25th, 27th, 28th, 31st May, and of the 2d and 5th June, all in the Harl. MSS. N° 433, except the 27th,

which is in Rymer 12, p. 184, have this legal form and addition; and almost all of them are dated from the Tower, where the king resided.

nor would they be left out, without some purpose adverse to his government⁸².

But there are two royal grants remaining, dated after the annunciation of the day of the coronation, and before the arrest of Hastings, which omit these expressions; and, by the omission, purport to be made by the king's own instrumentality, without the protector's concurrence or authority. There are, one dated the 9th of June, being a restitution of temporalities to a prior; and another, of the 12th of June, appointing a king's serjeant at law⁸³; both important legal acts, and both dated from Westminster, and not from the Tower.

This omission cannot be easily conceived to have been accidental, because legal formularies, being drawn by official persons, always follow legal precedents; and the addition, of the protector's advice, had become a formal part of the royal grants, which was as important to him always to retain, as it was alarming to his authority to expunge. These two grants, thus defective in leaving out the protector's concurrence, become a species of presumptive evidence that these were done without his concurrence; and that some persons were inciting the king to act of his own authority, without the protector's sanction; and such conduct would be the first step to put aside or to nullify Richard's appointments⁸⁴.

The minds of both Buckingham and Hastings appear to have been, at this juncture, in much perturbation. Each having now to pass

⁸² It was as necessary and essential for this legal form to be observed in all official documents then emanating from the crown, as it was, during the Regency established in our late Sovereign's incapacity, to insert the formulary 'in the name and on the behalf of His Majesty.'

⁸³ These important instruments are in Rymer's *Federa*, V. 12, p. 186.

⁸⁴ There are but two other documents without this addition, on 16th and 20th May, 12 Rym. 179—181. But of these, one precedes his parliamentary appointment; and the

other was but the next day, before the new official style was known or settled. But both these are remarkable for being dated from *Westminster*, like the two of the 9th and 12th June, where the council most hostile to him would meet. After the parliamentary appointment it was dangerous to the protector, to omit this phrase, as that would be dispensing with his advice and authority, and using the royal power in public without it. Hence, it looks like an overt act of some meditated hostility against it.

pass both the moral and political Rubicon, contemplated with anxiety as well the past as the future. Buckingham is described as deliberating, whether to continue to act with the protector, or to quit him; till suggestions were made to him, that he had done too much to secede⁸⁵. Hastings also, who had exhorted Richard to assume the care of the young king, is stated to have repented of it; and to have convoked a meeting of Edward's most zealous friends at St. Paul's, and to have discussed with them, what was the most expedient to be done⁸⁶. An act like this was the commencement of direct hostilities against the protector.

It was quite natural that Gloucester and Buckingham should, as these contending views and interests were in agitation, think it fit, or find it necessary, to hold councils with their own friends at Crosby House, distinct from the councils in which the two archbishops, the bishop of Ely, and lords Hastings and Stanley met⁸⁷; and it certainly implies, that these two bodies were now meditating far different measures. The probability is, that both parties, at this critical moment, had their secret meetings. The leaders of those, from whom Gloucester and Buckingham were separating, were the three ecclesiastical prelates above-named, combined with Hastings and Stanley. Of these church statesmen, two of them were peculiarly attached to the queen's party, and hostile to Richard.

⁸⁵ 'The matter was broken unto the duke by subtle folks, and such as were then craft masters in the handling of such wicked devices; who declared unto him, that the young king was offended with him for his kinsfolks sakes, and that if he were able he would revenge them.'—They also remarked, that Rivers and Grey would urge the king to this 'if they escaped, for they would remember their imprisonment; or else, if they were put to death, without doubt the young king would be careful for their deaths, as their imprisonment was grievous unto him'. More, 196.

⁸⁶ Polydore Virgil mentions this circum-

stance; he says, that Hastings, who from his enmity to the queen's relations, 'hortatus erat Ricardum ad suscipiendam curam principis; cum vidisset omnia, jam spectare ad arma, et multo secus cadere ac putarat, *facti sui pœnitens*, ad ædem Divo Pauli, amicos, quibus magnæ curæ, vitam dignitatem, amplitudinem Edwardi principis esse sciebat, in unum convocat, atque quid agendum sit, cum eis disputat.' p. 540.

⁸⁷ More informs us of this fact, and that 'by little and little, all folk withdrew from the Tower; and drew to Crosbie's-place, in Bishopsgate-street, where the protector kept his household,' p. 198.

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Richard. That these two cabinet councils knew of each other's existence, is evident, from Stanley remarking and expressing to Hastings his dislike of Gloucester's separate consultations⁸⁸; but Hastings, instead of countenancing any alarm at the circumstance, assured him, that he had a spy in one of the protector's council, who would immediately communicate to him whatever should have any hostile tendency⁸⁹. It would seem from this conversation, that Stanley was no party to Hastings's alledged plans, if he really was pursuing them.

Any confederation between the ecclesiastical counsellors and the queen's friends, was not likely to bring immediate personal danger to Richard or Buckingham; but from the lay power, influence, and resolution of Hastings, it was a question of vital importance to them, whether this lord was uniting with their antagonists. Intrigues of this kind are always covered, as far as they can be, with impenetrable secrecy. The public eye could not see them; they would be too dangerous to be intrusted to any but those in the highest confidence; and could be only known to Richard, by the treachery of some one of this description. Catesby is declared to have been in this situation, and to have thus acted⁹⁰; and it was on his information, and by his recommendation, that the subsequent measures that were pursued, were at this crisis adopted.

That Richard loved Hastings, and was loth to loose him from his party, and therefore employed Catesby to attach him to it, is mentioned⁹¹ by More. He also states, that Hastings expressed to Catesby the mistrust which others began to have of Richard; and that Catesby advised the protector to get rid of Hastings⁹². It was the interest of Catesby to please both this lord, and also Gloucester.

⁸⁸ Richard's separate council at Crosby-place was not therefore a secret thing. More says, 'Lord Stanley said unto the lord Hastings, that he much misliked these two several councils. 'For while we,' quoth he,

'talk of one matter in the one place, little wot we whereof they talk in the other place'. 199.

⁸⁹ More, 199.

⁹⁰ Ib.

⁹¹ Ib, 200.

⁹² Ib.

Gloucester. He was a lawyer, who, by the special favor of Hastings, had risen to good authority; and he possessed much rule in Leicestershire, where this nobleman's power chiefly lay⁹³. On the 14th of May, he had been appointed, under the protector's patronage, to the chancellorship of the marches of Wales⁹⁴; and on the 21st of May, was directed to execute all such commands, concerning this office, as Buckingham should direct⁹⁵. It is clear that his communications, whatever they were, of Hastings's purposes, decided the protector and Buckingham to destroy this peer. More intimates, that these were, the expressed aversion of Hastings to Richard's taking the crown⁹⁶; but this could not have swayed Buckingham on this occasion; for the same writer also declares, that they who knew the protector, denied that he had ever opened to Buckingham his enterprize of seizing the crown, till after he had secured the person of the duke of York⁹⁷. But this last incident did not occur until the 16th of June⁹⁸, the Monday after the arrest of Hastings; and therefore, on this representation, it was not the refusal of Hastings to let Gloucester be made king, that induced Buckingham to concur in his destruction.

The interest which Hastings had, at this time, to join the party of the queen, has not been taken into due consideration. The experience of six weeks, and more especially, the grants to Buckingham, Howard, and Lovel⁹⁹, proved, that this duke, and others, stood higher in Richard's favor, and was deriving from it larger benefits, than himself. No grants were made to him under Gloucester: he would, therefore, be subordinate to Buckingham; but with the queen's party, he would be the principal minister.

But there is also a circumstance to be noticed, which, in addition to the preferments given to Buckingham, may have alienated the mind

⁹³ More, 199.⁹⁴ Harl. MSS. p. 6 and 12.⁹⁵ Ib.⁹⁶ More, 200.⁹⁷ Ib. 195.⁹⁸ Croyland, 566.⁹⁹ See before, p. 445.

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mind of Hastings from the protector. His chief courtly dignity, under Edward IV. was that of lord chamberlain. But in the letters of the 8th and 10th of June, Richard is styled, "great chamberlain¹⁰⁰." This would seem to imply, that instead of Hastings being continued in this high confidential office to Edward V. Gloucester was himself appointed to it. The loss of this dignity may have combined, with Buckingham's superior favor, to incline Hastings to unite himself with the party of the queen; and he may have been forming a plan with the other lords, in that interest, to dispossess Richard of the protectorate, when the coronation was completed. That the minds of the great were in a very unsettled and undecided state at this time, is strongly stated to us¹⁰¹.

Beyond these circumstances, we cannot extend our authorized conjectures, on the dark and violent transaction which is next to be recorded. On Tuesday, the 10th of May, Richard wrote the agitated letter to York, already noticed; and on Friday morning, the 13th, his mind had fully implicated Hastings in the conspiracy which he imputed to this nobleman; and avenged itself upon him, in the manner which sir Thomas More, from the information of the protector's enemies, thus details¹⁰².

On the 13th of June, many lords assembled in council, at the Tower, to conclude upon all that was necessary for the coronation. About nine the protector entered courteously; and saying, he had played the sluggard that morning, desired the bishop of Ely to let

¹⁰⁰ The words are, 'The duke of Gloucester, brother and uncle of kings, protectour and defensour, *grett chamberleyne*, constable, and lord high admiral of England.' Drake, Ebor, 115.

¹⁰¹ 'For the state of things, and the disposition of men were then such, that a man could not well tell whom he might trust, or whom he might fear'. More, 196.

¹⁰² More has left a blank for the day of the month, but gives the day of the week,

'Friday.' Croyland supplies us with the day of the month, '13th June,' p. 566, which in that year was on a Friday. Polidore Virgil distinguishes with apparent accuracy, that Richard caused his chancellor, and others of the council, to meet at the same time at Westminster, to deliberate on the coronation; while he convened the prelates of York and Ely, Buckingham, Hastings, Stanley, Howard, and a few more to the Tower, 543.

let him have some strawberries from his garden, in Holborn, for his dinner; and after a short attention, took his leave, and departed.

A little more than an hour afterwards, he came back to them, with an angry countenance, knitting his brow, and frowning and biting his lips; so that the council were amazed at the sudden change. He sat down, and was for some time silent; but then suddenly asked, what punishment they deserved who were plotting his death. The council, startled, returned no answer; but Hastings declared, they should be punished as traitors. The protector then said, "That sorceress, my brother's wife, and another with her;" and then complained, that she and Shore's wife had, by their witchcraft, wasted his body; unbuttoning his left sleeve, and showing them that arm, withered and small. The council, knowing that the arm had never been otherwise, supposed now that he meant to quarrel with them. Hastings, who was keeping Jane Shore, replied, that "If they had done so heinously, they were worthy of heinous punishment." The protector exclaimed, "Dost thou serve me with ifs and ands? I tell thee, they have done it; and that I will make good on thy body—traitor!"

Then striking the council-table hard with his fist, one without cried "treason!" and several men in armor rushed into the room. On their entrance, Richard arrested Hastings, as a traitor; and had also Stanley, the archbishop of York, and the bishop of Ely, with some others, seized. A blow was made at Stanley in the bustle, with a pole-axe, which he partly avoided by sinking under the table, but it wounded his head. While the others were imprisoned in different places in the Tower, Hastings was ordered to confess and prepare for death, as Richard had sworn not to dine till his head was off. It was in vain he complained of severity, or demanded justice. The protector's oath must not be broken. He was forced to take the nearest priest, and make a short confession; was hurried to the green by the Tower chapel; was laid upon

upon a log of timber, provided for repairing it; and was there beheaded¹⁰³.

It is obvious, that this account gives the scene of the catastrophe, and not its causes. These were, according to More, but a part of Richard's long-meditated design of usurping the crown, and his resentment at the refusal of Hastings to assist it. But Richard's assertion of his own motives is, that Hastings had intended¹⁰⁴, on that day, to have perpetrated on him the violence which he had been made to undergo. How the truth, on these deplorable actions, really stood between these two great men, the heads of their respective factions, no modern historian can decide. All that can be justly done to either, is to bring, as we have attempted, all the facts that can be now elicited, and the most natural probabilities which they suggest, on both sides, to the reader's consideration. Every moral reasoner must deduce his own conclusion from these imperfect premises¹⁰⁵.

Immediately after dinner, Richard sent for the principal citizens, and,

¹⁰³ That in this violence towards Hastings the protector acted in conjunction with the advice of other noblemen, may be inferred from the words of the son of one of 'the priviest of Richard's council,' the duke of Norfolk. This young nobleman went to bring Hastings to that council; as they went together, they met an ecclesiastic, and Hastings stopping to converse with him, this conductor expressed his wonder, that he talked so long with a priest, as he had no occasion for one 'as yet.' More thinks, these two words ought to have raised some suspicion. They certainly look like a previous knowledge of the intended violence, and a voluntary co-operation to produce it.

¹⁰⁴ That Hastings had then some great and secret design in agitation, seems the natural inference from his own expressions to his namesake, whom he met that morning on Tower Wharf. The pursuivant being reminded by him, that they had met there when Hastings had been arrested in Edward's life,

upon his differences with Rivers, answered, 'they gat no good, nor you none harm thereby.' The reply of Hastings was, 'thou wouldest say so, if thou knewest as much as I know, which few know else as yet, and more shall shortly.' More applies this to mean, that Rivers and Grey were that day to be beheaded at Pomfret, p. 207. But this cannot be, because we find by the date of his will, that Rivers was alive above ten days afterwards.

¹⁰⁵ Hastings, by his will, made about a year before his death, ordered one thousand priests to say one thousand placebos and diriges, and one thousand masses for his soul, and that each should have sixpence. Dugd. Baron. 1, p. 585. Such were the opinions of the day, of the efficacy of these ceremonies; and so inventive was the mind, in the mode of varying their performance. Hastings is said to have been one of those who struck prince Edward at Tewkesbury. Pol. Virg. 543. But it is not certain that this occurred.

and, with Buckingham, appeared in rusty armor, taken, as if suddenly, from the Tower; asserted to them, that Hastings and others had formed the treasonable intention of destroying him and Buckingham, that day, in the council: that he himself had not acquired knowledge of the fact, till ten o'clock that morning; that he had scarcely time to put on, for his preservation, such harness as came to hand; and desired them to report to the people these true circumstances of the case¹⁰⁶. A proclamation was immediately issued, alledging, that Hastings had conspired, with others, to have killed the protector and Buckingham, sitting in the council; and to have taken upon them to rule the king and realm, at their pleasure¹⁰⁷. That this official document should have been so neatly composed, fairly written, and completely published, within two hours after the death of Hastings, led most to believe, it must have been prepared before his death¹⁰⁸. Jane Shore was then arrested, on the charge of participating in the conspiracy. She was taken to prison; her valuable goods were confiscated; and she was consigned to the bishop of London, to be punished, not for her alledged treason, but for her notorious unchastity. She was sentenced to penance; and on the next Sunday, with a wax taper in her hands, clothed only in her kirtle, she walked before the cross, in a penitential procession. The populace was subdued by her modest air, and decorous conduct¹⁰⁹.

She

¹⁰⁶ More, 208.

¹⁰⁷ More, 209. It charged him also with misleading the king into his injurious debaucheries; and, with his subsequent attachment to Jane Shore. It declared, that he had been put to death by the king's faithful council; and intimated, that the suddenness of the execution was to prevent his friends from making some great commotion for his deliverance. *Ib.*

¹⁰⁸ More has preserved two of the popular remarks. A schoolmaster printed in rhyme,

'Here is a gay goodly cast,

Foul cast away for haste.'

A merchant answered, that it was written by prophecy. More, 210.

¹⁰⁹ More, 211. If Hastings had really joined the queen against Gloucester, Jane Shore may have been an assisting instrument to produce the coalition. Her affection to Edward's family was great; and his death removed the queen's personal objection to her, when the need of a reconciliation with Hastings arose. The protector's charge against her, was, a confederation with the queen; though the popular idea of witchcraft was used in the accusation. This was, probably, but an adoption of the public talk, that she

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She was still very beautiful; and the shame of her exposure diffusing over her cheeks the bloom she had lost, she appeared but the more lovely for her disgrace. She survived to be reduced at last to a miserable poverty, and even to ugliness, in her old age¹¹⁰. That she died, from Richard's cruel prohibition against any one relieving her, of famine and fatigue, in Shoreditch, seems therefore to be but a traditional fiction. If this story contain any truth, it must relate to her final death in the day of her decrepitude; and this must have occurred under Henry VIII. More's expressions of the miserable poverty of her old age, are not inconsistent with the popular tale, of her place and mode of expiring; but these sufferings cannot have been inflicted by Richard¹¹¹.

The arm of violence having been thus put into action, continued its illegal exertions without any public trial. The two prelates were

she had bewitched the king, and was now bewitching Hastings. She certainly had beauty's power of personal witchery; for she afterwards attached the marquis of Dorset, and, when he fled, even Richard's solicitor general.

¹¹⁰ More adds a brief history of her life, and gives it this conclusion:—'Now she is old, lean, withered, and dried up; nothing left but shrivelled skin and hard bone.' They who knew her in her youth declared, 'she was proper and fair; nothing in her body that you would have wished to have changed, unless you would have wished her somewhat higher.' 'Albeit some who now see her, for yet she liveth, deem her never to have been well visaged.' p. 212. She used her influence with Edward, to obtain many acts of kindness and mercy to others. Ib. 213. She died 18 Henry VIII.

¹¹¹ Hollingshed, p. There is a curious letter of Richard, after his becoming king, to his chancellor, stating, that his solicitor-general, Thomas Lynom, 'marveyllously blynded and abused with the late wyfe of William Shore, nowe being in Ludgate, hath made contract of matrimony with her;' and that he 'entendeth,

to our ful gret merveile, to procede to the effect of the same.' He adds, 'We, for many causes, wold be sory that hee soo shuld be disposed. Pray you, therefore, to sende for him, and, in that ye goodly may, exhorte and styre hym to the contrary.' Richard goes on to tell the bishop, 'If ye finde him utterly set for to marye hur, and noon otherwise wol be advertised; then, if it may stand with the lawe of the church, wee be content the tyme of mariage deferred to our comyng next to London; that, upon sufficient suretie founde of hure good bearing, ye doo sende for hure, and discharge hym of our sayd commaundment, committing hur to the rule and *guyding of hur father*, or any other by your discretion, in the meane season.' Harl. MSS. 433. This document displays Richard acting, not with tyranny, but with great moderation, towards one whom he deemed so much his enemy. He desires his solicitor to be reasoned with against the marriage; but, if he persist in it, he only desires that it be deferred till his own arrival in London; that Jane might give sufficient security for her good conduct, and be in the time committed to her father's care.

were sent off to two castles in Wales¹¹². In one of these, at Brecon, under the command of Buckingham as its constable, Morton was confined; an important designation, remarkable for its result. Richard chose this locality and its lord, as the most secure mode of imprisoning Morton; and this selection proved one of the immediate causes of his final overthrow. Stanley was soon released and promoted, and trusted by Richard¹¹³. That he had some intimation of the impending danger, though he chose to convey the caution to Hastings as a dream, seems inferable from that communication¹¹⁴.

On the Monday after this, or the 16th day of June, Richard went, at the head of a large force, with swords and clubs, and compelled the archbishop of Canterbury, and others, to enter the sanctuary, and to solicit the queen to let the duke of York go to the Tower, for the comfort of the king¹¹⁵. It is at this time we must place that conversation with her, which More has amplified with such flowing, and yet perhaps not altogether improbable rhetoric; and which ended with her parting with the princely boy¹¹⁶. He was conducted by the cardinal to the king, at the Tower¹¹⁷.

While these events were transacting in London, sir Richard Ratcliffe, on the 15th of June, had reached York with Richard's earnest

¹¹² Hist. Croyl. 566.

¹¹³ See the grant to him, in the Harl. MSS. 433.

¹¹⁴ Stanley sent his chamberlain to Hastings, on the preceding midnight, to say, that in a dream, he had seen a wild boar wounding himself and Hastings. He advised, that they should take their horses, and fly to their friends. More, 204. The boar was Richard's crest. It must have been something more than a dream, which suggested, that two such men should suddenly quit the metropolis, and begin a civil war. Hastings treated the admonition of a dream, with derision; but if he had planned his own measures, as Richard

alleged, he would equally disregard the advice. This message, as Hastings probably joked with Stanley about it when they met, may have produced the blow at Stanley's head.

¹¹⁵ It is of importance to mark the specific date, which the Croyland doctor attaches to this incident, p. 566; because More, by erroneously placing it before the arrest of Hastings, p. 174, as he also wrongly places the day of Rivers's death, confuses his history, and thereby aggravates, untruly, the facts against Richard.

¹¹⁶ More has given twenty-one pages to it, p. 174—195.

¹¹⁷ Croyl. 566. More, 195.

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earnest letter of the 10th, soliciting their aid. The corporation ordered all the forces that could be assembled to meet at Pomfret, on the 18th, where the earl of Northumberland was waiting to conduct them to London. On the 19th, a proclamation was issued at York, in the protector's name, probably in consequence of fresh orders from London, after the catastrophe of Hastings, commanding all manner of men, in their best defensible array, to rise up incontinently, and come to London, to his highness, in company of the earl¹¹⁸; again charging the queen, and her adherents, with projecting the destruction of him and his noble friends.

That on the 16th of June, it had been determined by Richard, and the noblemen who formed his council, that he should be crowned instead of Edward, there can be no doubt. The seizure of the little prince of York, on that day, sufficiently proves it; and the concurrence and efforts of the cardinal, and his attendant prelates, and of all the council, to procure the queen to deliver him up, as satisfactorily shows that they were then assenting to this revolutionary violence. This measure, after the arrest of Hastings, could leave no doubt on the subject; yet More declares, that all the council affirmed, that Richard's motion, to take York from the queen, and put him in the Tower, was "good and reasonable¹¹⁹;" that the archbishop of York took upon him to move her to it¹²⁰; that divers of the clergy were then present at that approving council¹²¹; that the temporal members of it wholly, and good part of the spiritual, also agreed, that if the young child were not willingly delivered, he should be fetched out of the sanctuary¹²², but that the lord cardinal should first essay to get him with the queen's good will; and that the cardinal, with divers other

¹¹⁸ The proclamation stated, 'And the lord Nevyle, and odyr men of worship; there to aid and assist him to the subdewing, correcting, and punishing the queene, her blode, and odyr hyr adherentes, whilk hath intended, and dayly doth intend, to murther and utterly destroy his *royal* person, his cosyn the duke

of Buckingham, and odyr of old royal blode of this realm, as alsoe the nobillmen of their company's.' Drake's Eborac, 115.

¹¹⁹ More, 176.

¹²⁰ Ib. 177.

¹²¹ Ib. 183.

¹²² Ib. 184.

other lords with him¹²³, went and urged her to give him up. This dignified ecclesiastic told her, what he must have known to be untrue, that the child being with his mother, was an insupportable grief and displeasure to the king¹²⁴; though it was palpable to all, that the king would, at that time, have eagerly preferred being also with his parent. When the queen averred her doubt of his safety, if taken from her, and steadily refused to surrender him, the cardinal degraded himself by expressing a threat, that upon her further opposition, he would depart from the business, and leave it to *others* to shift with it; and by pledging his own body and soul to the child's safety¹²⁵; a pledge that we must call a wilful delusion, because it was in opposition to the manifest peril of the case, unless he had kept him in his own palace; and because, after the sudden violence to Hastings, it was clear, that when the prince was once in the Tower, no prelate had the power to hinder Richard doing whatever he should resolve on. It was then that the queen, seeing no friend able or willing to help, unwillingly surrendered her child, whom the same cardinal took and lodged in the Tower¹²⁶.

The most probable inference from these facts is, that Richard proceeded to the usurpation of the crown, with the approbation of most of the great men, both of the church and state, then in London. What motives determined them to this assent, we cannot now ascertain. But the terror of military force was not one of these; for Richard's army from the north was not ordered to be at Pomfret till the 18th of June, and did not, in fact, leave that city till after the execution of Rivers, and therefore not till after the 23d of June¹²⁷; and could not be in the metropolis till the end of the

¹²³ More, 184.

¹²⁴ Ib.

¹²⁵ Ib. p. 192.

¹²⁶ Croyl. 566. The queen at parting, said unto her child, 'Farewell, my own sweet son; God send you good keeping: Let me kiss you once yet, ere you go; for God

knoweth when we shall kiss together again.' And therewith she kissed him, and blessed him; turned her back, and wept and went away, leaving the child weeping as fast.' More, 194.

¹²⁷ See the date of his will, hereafter mentioned.

the month, several days after Richard had seated himself on the throne. Not that the assent of the whole country could be any justification of the treasonable and immoral action ; but the preceding facts prove, that the protector, however bad or blameable, was no worse than the most distinguished men of rank, at that day. All who hoped to profit by it, supported him ; and the same interested motives would have made them as readily put him down by the same means, if his competitors had anticipated him. This is probably the real truth of the case. Both parties were playing the same game of unprincipled violence ; and Richard was the most fearless, prompt, determined, and unshrinking.

The mode adopted by the protector and his council, to announce his intended usurpation to the public, was as singular as the reason on which he chose to rest it.

On the Sunday after the possession of the duke of York, which would be the 22d of June, Dr. Shaw, brother of the lord mayor, preached a sermon at St. Paul's cross, in which it was planned, that he should impeach the legitimacy of the young king, and introduce a panegyric on Richard, so exactly timed, as to be uttering while the protector entered. To the destruction of its theatrical effect, it was expressed, but Richard was not at hand to appear. He had been delayed ; and the preacher was absurd enough to repeat the personal allusion verbatim, when he really came. The obvious concert of the artifice defeated its expected result ; and the public indignation was excited against a man, who could profane a place and office so sacred, for purposes so base¹²⁸.

On the Tuesday following, the 24th, the duke of Buckingham attended

¹²⁸ More, 226—7. That the preacher attacked the chastity of the protector's mother, to put the late king's legitimacy in doubt, is scarcely credible, because it was unnecessary ; and if this were done, it did not originate with Richard. It was one of the articles of Clarence's attainder, that he accused his brother, Edward IV. of being a bastard. Rolls Parl.

6, p. 194. Polydore Virgil describes the sermon as representing Richard to be like his father the duke of York, in two points, being a small man, with a short and compact face, p. 545. Dr. Shaw lived but a short time afterwards. He was of the Augustine friars, and had borne a great reputation.

attended a meeting of the common council; and employed all his eloquence to persuade his audience to an acclamation, that Richard should be king; but the act was too treasonable, and the real sympathy too strong for Edward, to gain more than a few rabble voices for such a proposition ¹²⁹.

The scheme for making the young king's deposition a sort of popular act, having failed, Buckingham, on the next day, accompanied by the mayor, aldermen, and chief commoners, and by several noblemen, knights, and other gentlemen, went to Richard, at his house, and formally solicited him to become their king. He made some difficulties, which enabled Buckingham to display more of his rhetoric, and Richard to seem to have the honor thrust upon him ¹³⁰: and this scene having been well acted, Richard prepared, with the decisive boldness of his spirit, to take the throne, without further coquetry or hesitation. The parliament had been summoned for the 25th of June ¹³¹. When the members met, though not in due form, a roll was presented to them, as a bill, claiming the crown for Richard; and stating the grounds of the application ¹³².

He seems to have rested it on the ancient canon law of pre-contracts ¹³³. The bill stated, that before Edward's private marriage with lady Grey, he stood plighted to Dame Eleanor Butteler, daughter of the old earl of Shrewsbury, with whom he made a pre-contract of matrimony, long before his nuptials with the present

¹²⁹ More details this scene and the duke's speech, p. 228—38.

¹³⁰ More, 238—240.

¹³¹ See before, p. (note 36.)

¹³² See it at length in the Parl. Rolls, V. 6, p. 240—3.

¹³³ By the ancient canon law, a contract for marriage might be valid and perfect without the church ceremony. See Gibson's Codex Tit. 22. Hence there have been decisions in the ecclesiastical courts, by which second marriages have been annulled, on account of the existence of a pre-contract; and

see the Decret. L. 4, Tit. 1, c. 21. It was the subsequent statute of 32 Henry VIII, c. 38, which, reciting the fact that marriages had been annulled, by reason of pre-existing contracts, enacted, that all such marriages should be held good notwithstanding such contracts. So that Richard was right in the law of his objection. Buckingham told Morton, that Richard brought in 'instruments, authentic doctors, proctors, and notaries of the law, with depositions of divers witnesses,' to prove the young king's illegitimacy. Graft. 815.

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present queen; and therefore, that his issue were illegitimate: and that the line of Clarence being attainted, Richard was become his father's heir¹³⁴. It prayed him to accept and take upon him the crown and royal dignity¹³⁵.

He took possession of the throne on the following day, the 26th of June¹³⁶; having issued a previous proclamation, ordering every man to be in his lodging by ten o'clock at night; and that none, but those licensed, should bear any manner of weapon, on pain of imprisonment¹³⁷. He described the popularity of his assumption of the crown, in an official letter to lord Mountjoy, at Calais¹³⁸.

The path of bloodshed and injustice being once chosen, more blood and crime necessarily followed. The death of Rivers and Grey now became essential to the plans of the protector and his friends. Rivers was, on the 23d of June, at Sheriffs Hutton castle, and there made his will¹³⁹, as uncertain of life, but not as then immediately expecting death. He was removed after that day to Pomfret, where he was arraigned and tried, before the earl of Northumberland,

¹³⁴ More, 241. It also stated the protector's great wit, prudence, *justice*, princely courage, and memorable and laudable acts in divers battles. *Ib.* Stillington, the bishop of Bath, who was present at the pre-contract of lady Butler, is said to have given Richard information of this formidable difficulty. Comines declares, that he heard this prelate say, that he had married Edward to her. c. 112, 122.

¹³⁵ The act, which in the next parliament made this bill an act, states that it was presented 'by many and divers lords spiritual and temporal, and other nobles and notable persons of the commons, in great multitude,' p. 240. From which I should infer, that the parliament was summoned, but that it was not opened in due form; Richard not chusing to do it as protector, because he meant to be king; and for the same reason determining that Edward should not meet it.

¹³⁶ Croyl. 567.

¹³⁷ Harl. MSS. N° 433, p. 239.

¹³⁸ This states, that the king, 'notably assisted by well near all the lords spiritual and temporal of this royaume, went the same day unto his palace of Westminster; and thence in such royal, honorable and apparelled way in the great hall, there took possession, and declared his mind, that the same day he would begin to reign upon his people; and from thence rode solemnly to the cathedral church of London, and was received there with procession, and with great congratulations and acclamation of all the people in every place, by the way that the king was in that day.' Harl. MSS. *Ib.* More's account in p. 244.

¹³⁹ This is dated 23 June 1483, at Hutton castle. He bequeaths his heart to be carried to Our Lady at Pisa, to be buried; and he directs, *in case he should die* south of Trent, to be also buried there. He orders all his apparel for his body, and horse harness, to be sold, and from the produce, shirts and smocks to be given to the poor. Dug. Baron. 2 p. 233.

Northumberland, on the charge of conspiring Richard's death¹⁴⁰. He was declared to be guilty, and adjudged to death. In this state, he wrote a poetical effusion, which has been handed down to us¹⁴¹; and was, with Grey and Vaughan, beheaded at Pomfret¹⁴². This was the second blood¹⁴³ shed by the protector and his friends. But by the earl of Northumberland presiding and sanctioning it, the guilt of it cannot be laid to Richard alone.

Five thousand ill-provided troops now came up from the north, Wales, and other parts¹⁴⁴; and Richard proceeded fearlessly to his coronation. Thus far it seems, that all which he had done, was aided,

¹⁴⁰ Rous 214, 5. That Northumberland was at Pomfret, we perceive from the York registers already quoted; and that he was the principal judge of Rivers, we learn from Rous, who says, of all the queen's friends, 'conspiratum est contra eos quod ipsi contrivissent mortem ducis, protectoris Angliæ.' Ib. 213.

¹⁴¹ Rous has preserved this 'balet,' which we subjoin, as showing this nobleman's calm, pensive, and cultivated mind.

Sumwhat musyng,
and more mornyng,
In remembring
The unстыdfastness;
This world being
Of such whelying
Thus contrarieng
What may I gesse?
I fere, dowlles
remedeless;
Is now to seie my woful chaunce.
Lo! in this traunce;
Now in substance:
Such is my dawnce.

Wyllyng to dye,
Me thynkys truly,
Bownden am I
and that gretely
To be content.
Seying plainly,
That fortune doth wry,
All contrary
From myn entent.

My lyff was lent,
Me to one entent,
Hytt is ny spent.

Welcome, fortune!
But I ne went (thought)
Thus to be shent (killed)
But so hit ment.
Such is her won.

Rous, Hist. 214.

¹⁴² His body was found to have an hair shirt under his clothes; which was afterwards hung before St. Mary's image at Doncaster, Rous, 214. The aged sir Thomas Vaughan exclaimed on the scaffold, 'I appeal to the high tribunal of God, against the duke of Gloucester, for this wrongful murder, and our real innocence.' Ratcliffe, with a sneering insensibility that does no credit to the gentry of the day, remarked, 'You have made a goodly appeal. Lay down your head.' The knight replied, 'I die in the right; take heed you die not in the wrong,' and submitted to the blow.

¹⁴³ Croyl. 567. Polyd. Virgil correctly places this execution at this time, 546.

¹⁴⁴ Croyl. 567. Pol. Virg. 546. They 'came up evil apparelleled, and worse harnessed, in rusty harness, neither defensible nor scoured, which mustered in Finsbury Field, to the great disdain of all lookers on.' Hall, p. 375.

aided, approved, and sanctioned, by the great men, both temporal and spiritual, about him. His determined spirit, inflamed with ambition, and fond of the pomp of state, executed unshrinkingly whatever atrocity they recommended, or that appeared to him to be necessary to the accomplishment of their councils, and his designs.

Thus ended the short reign of Edward V. Two months and eighteen days comprized the brief duration of his royalty. We cannot now ascertain the extent of the popular approbation that accompanied his deposition. The promiscuous multitude shout at the showy pomp which pleases their momentary gaze, without befriending the circumstances that cause it. Both Richard's anxiety and self-flattery would desire to construe the applause of the voice into the favor of the heart; but the condemning fact, that he had governed in his nephew's name, and taken and given oaths of allegiance to him, and appointed his coronation, without impeaching his legitimacy, could leave no one ignorant, that the imputations were but a pretext; and that his usurpation was a daring violation of all legal right and moral justice, as well as of impartial reason and conscientious religion. It stood on no grounds but that of oppressing power, fancied expediency, selfish gratification, and a supposed necessity of self-defence. Hence, his throne stood merely on the narrow foundation of self interest; and though, from soon feeling this, he became lavish of gifts and honors, till he impoverished his own resources, he found the mercenary basis too weak to uphold him; and he vanished with the same rapidity with which he had burst into his transitory blaze.

HISTORY OF ENGLAND.

CHAP. III.

REIGN OF RICHARD THE THIRD.

1483—1485.

WHEN Richard thus ascended his nephew's throne, he was but thirty years of age¹. It was an easy measure, at that moment, with so many assisting friends, to step into the royal chair; and as the dangerous consequences of such an usurpation seemed to him, and them, of less magnitude than the reign of Edward V. might have produced, the immorality of the action was disregarded, and the perils that might evolve from it were dared. He relied upon his own judgment and activity, for surmounting these; and he prepared to enjoy the regal splendor he loved, in its fullest blaze.

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One

¹ He was born at Fotheringay, on 2d October 1452, W. Wyr. 477. Hence, on 26th June 1483, he was 30 years, 8 months, and 24 days old. Shakspear, with correct judgment, did not place the death of Henry VI. in his tragedy of Richard III. Yet, by opening it with Henry's funeral, he, as Cibber afterwards, has confused the chronology. When Henry VI. was buried, Richard was but 19. He did not, at that funeral, court or see lady Anne, nor marry her till a considerable time

afterwards. At Edward the fifth's accession he was thirty; and not thirty-three years of age when he fell against Richmond. So that to personate the real historical character, the actor, as the play now stands, should be of the inconsistent ages of 19, 30, and 33, during the representation, instead of the elderly ruffian whom we usually see. It may be also noticed, that the old duchess of York, his mother, was at the time a Benedictine nun. See before, p. 41.

One of his first objects was, to secure the important fortresses of Calais and Guynes, and their well-disciplined garrisons. These, like the great nobility and gentry, before the deposition of Edward had been resolved upon, had sworn to him their oath of allegiance. It was for Richard, on the unexpected revolution he had made, to persuade them, that they might violate this solemn pledge of loyalty to their natural, admitted, and living sovereign, and transfer it to himself.

To this end, on the 28th of June, he sent instructions to lord Mountjoy, at Calais, desiring him to insinuate to his troops, that when they took that oath, they were ignorant of the “verray sure and true title” which Richard then had to the crown; that upon the knowledge of this, every good true Englishman is bound to depart from his first oath, so ignorantly given to him, to whom it did not appertain; and therefore that they should make their oath anew to him, whom good law, reason, and concordant assent of the lords and commons, had ordered to reign over the people². To sir Ralph Hastings, at the castle of Guynes, he sent four persons, to whom he desired the lieutenant to give full faith and credence, in such things and news as he had commanded them to explain; and he pruned sir Ralph to disclose them to such of the subjects under his rule, as by his wisdom should be thought most accordant³.

From policy, from love of public applause, or from a desire to discharge, with credit, the full duties of a sovereign; or from a blending of all these motives, he endeavoured immediately to acquire and deserve popularity. In imitation of an ancient sovereign, he went himself to the court of king’s bench, “because he considered that it was the chiefest duty of a king to administer the laws⁴.” He went about with pleasing speeches, “to win to him the nobles, the merchants, the artificers, and all kind of men, especially

See the instructions in Harl. MSS.
N^o 433, p. 239.

² See the letter. MSS. ib.

⁴ More, p. 244.

especially the lawyers of the realm⁵." And in order that no man should hate him for fear, and that his clemency might procure for him the good will of the people, he made another proclamation, That he had put out of his mind all enmities; and he declared, that by this official instrument, he openly pardoned all offences which had been committed against him⁶. As an indication of the fulness of the application of this forgiveness, and of the sincerity of his feeling, he sent for one Fogge, then taking shelter in a sanctuary, and towards whom he was known to have had a deadly hatred; and in the sight of all the people, he took him graciously by the hand⁷.

If it is allowed to have been afterwards noble in Charles, when he became king, to have declared, that he forgot the injuries of the duke of Orleans, Richard may claim some credit for this similar example of a prior magnanimity. The author who has recorded it, speaks the language of his prepossessions, in calling it a "*deceitful*" clemency. But as there is no intimation given, that the king ever violated this remitting promise, as to all past hostilities against him, the wise generosity of the action ought not to be depreciated. His subsequent severities were directed against subsequent attacks.

As he returned to his palace, he saluted whomsoever he met⁸. This is also branded as the servile flattery of a guilty mind; but it is not the interest of the public at large to discourage royal condescensions. Every act of kindness from the throne, which unites the hearts of the sovereign and his people, strengthens the kingly power: and increases both the happiness and the prosperity of the nation. Proud dignity weakens its own stability, and diminishes its own comfort; and awakens evil feelings at every step

⁵ More, 244.

⁶ Ib.

⁷ Ib. 245. Grafton, 798. The sincerity and permanence of Richard's forgiveness, and his readiness and courage in trusting his enemies again, is evidenced, not only by his giving an official pardon afterwards, under

his sign manual, to this person, who was sir John Fogge, but by making him a friendly grant of some manors, in the ensuing February. Harl. MSS. p. 98. This man afterwards joined his enemies.

⁸ More, 245.

step of its arrogance. Courteous majesty is always the most honored. It is a perpetual compliment to its admiring subjects.

Two days before his coronation, he went in great state by water to the Tower, where his dethroned nephew was residing; and made several peers, and seventeen knights of the Bath⁹. He released Stanley and the archbishop of York; and appointed the former his lord high steward¹⁰. As the soldier's blow at Stanley, on the arrest of Hastings, and the earl's subsequent imprisonment, were incidents calculated to plant in Stanley's bosom a mortal resentment against the king, it was an action of the most liberal and rarely equalled magnanimity in Richard, to have placed such a nobleman to an office, so confidential in his household, and so near his council. That it was as unwise as it was generous, Stanley's future treachery proved. In this transaction, the king had all the honor, the earl all the disgrace. A true nobleman would have declined the trust-imposing and truth-demanding honor; or would have steadily fulfilled its moral and political obligations. If Richard advanced him, because he dreaded him or his son, it does not lessen the greatness of the action. The king could have rewarded him with royal honors and emoluments, without making him so near a companion of his state and cabinet. It is clear, both from the concession and the acceptance of the appointment, that whatever may have been the hypocrisy of the king, it was exceeded by that of Stanley, who deceived even the suspicious jealousy of his lynx-eyed master, up to the last moments, in which he betrayed and ruined him.

Richard at the same time liberated Morton from the Tower; and committed him to Buckingham, to be kept in friendly restraint in the duke's Welsh castle¹¹. It is a remarkable instance of human blindness to the consequences of its own actions, that, by this destination of the bishop, the king was laying the foundation for his own future destruction. The preservation of the prelate's life produced

Grafton names them in p. 799.

¹⁰ Ib.

¹¹ Grafton, lb.

produced the loss of his own. But as Richard had betrayed his own trust, he was suffered to fall by the perfidy or ingratitude of others.

The next day, indulging his peculiar fondness for public state, he rode through the city from the Tower to Westminster, in great pomp and ceremony. Buckingham rivalled his sovereign's taste for gorgeous show. Richly apparelled himself, he appeared upon a stately horse, whose sumptuous trappings of blue velvet were made to radiate dazzlingly with embroidered axles of burnished gold: and these were spread to the gazing multitude, by footmen, with such displaying management, "that all men much regarded them¹²."

His coronation was made as stately as wealth could provide, or pomp exhibit. Saluted by his prelates and chapel in Westminster hall, the procession of studied dignity passed thence to the abbey. The royal household, knights and peers, were followed by Northumberland, with the pointless sword of mercy; and by Stanley, with his constable's mace. Kent bore the naked weapon of justice on the king's right hand; and Lovel another on his left. The duke of Suffolk then appeared, with the sceptre; and Lincoln, with the ball and cross. The new-made earl of Surrey carried the sword of state, in a rich scabbard; near whom his father, Norfolk, displayed the glittering and tempting crown. Under a canopy, borne by the barons of the cinque ports, between two bishops, one of them the auxiliary Stillington, Richard, the prime actor, and theme of this happiest day of his short life, exhibited himself in a surcoat and robe of purple, with his train borne by the duke of Buckingham, with his wand of lord high steward. The queen's sceptre, and dove-crowned rod, succeeded the king, in the hands of Huntingdon and Lisle; and, preceded by the earl of Wiltshire, with her crown, she came in gentle majesty,

He is crowned,
6 July.

¹² Grafton, 799—809. Hall 375. Three dukes, nine earls, twenty-two lords, and seventy-eight knights (the last the lord mayor)

formed part of the splendid procession. Grafton names them, 799—800.

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majesty, in robes like the king; also between two prelates, and under a like supported canopy. On her head was a rich coronet of jewels and pearls. The countess of Richmond bore her train; and a splendid retinue of duchesses, countesses, baronesses, and fair ladies, closed the magnificent scene¹³. It is the natural inference, from the coronation roll, that Edward V. walked in this procession. It is certain from this, that robes were made for him, to accompany it¹⁴.

They entered the abbey at its western portal, to their seat of state, heard the appointed anthems, descended to the high altar; and, putting off their robes, were anointed in several parts. Assuming new garments of cloth of gold, they were crowned by the cardinal of Canterbury, assisted by other bishops. On each side of the king stood a duke; while Surrey upheld the sword of state before him. At the queen's right and left, a bishop was standing, and a lady knelt. The service performed, they both communicated; and returned, with a repetition of the preceding state, to a splendid banquet, where all the accustomed ceremonial and luxury of marshalled state, with the theatrical champion, passed the hours till night¹⁵. That Buckingham, beginning to be dissatisfied with Richard, pretended to be ill, to avoid attending this coronation, and that the king declared, that if he could not walk, he would cause him to be carried, is mentioned by More¹⁶; but these

¹³ Grafton, 800—3. Hall, 375.

¹⁴ This entry, which lord Orford first brought to the public notice is, 'to lord Edward, son of the late Edward the IV. for his apparel and array, that is to say, a short gowne, made of two yards and three quarters of crymsyn clothe of gold, lyned with 2 yards $\frac{3}{4}$ of blac velvet; a long gowne, made of vi yards $\frac{1}{2}$ of crymsyn cloth of gold, lyned with six yards of green damask; a shorte gowne, made of two yards $\frac{1}{4}$ of purpell velvet, lyned with two yards $\frac{3}{4}$ of green damask; a doublet, and a stomacher, made of two yards of blac satyn, &c.; besides two foot cloths,

a bonet of purple velvet, nine horse harness, and nine saddle housings of blue velvet, gilt spurs, with many other rich articles, and magnificent apparel for his henchmen or pages.' Hist. Doubts, p. 66. Grafton had a narrative of the coronation before him, when he wrote, p. 798. But he only particularizes the great men who had official honors, in the state pageantry. This may account for his not mentioning Edward in it, who, if there, would have walked only as one of the nobles.

¹⁵ Grafton, 800—3. Hall, 376.

¹⁶ More, p. 253.

these tales are scarcely probable, unless we refer it to a personal pride, that would not stoop to be a public minister to another man's superior splendor. The duke's discontent is popularly alledged to have arisen from Richard's refusal to grant him the Hereford estate; but both the refusal and the discontent, seem to be disproved by the fact, that seven days after his coronation, Richard gave to Buckingham his letters patent, by which he willed and granted, that in the next parliament, the duke should be legally restored, from the preceding easter, to all the manors, lordships, and lands of the earl of Hereford, specified in the schedule¹⁷. The crown could not make a fuller grant. It only wanted the parliamentary sanction. But More acknowledges, that those who were in the real secrets of that day, denied these reports¹⁸ which we have noticed, in order to show that they are unfounded.

Richard appears, from the time of his coronation, to have fixed his determined mind to enjoy his regal state as splendidly as he could display it; to maintain his throne with unshrinking resolution; to watch with alert and jealous vigilance, all that criticised or opposed; to act with the most prompt energy, against every hostility that emerged; to punish resistance with the most unsparing severity; and to anticipate his enemies with the most rapid measures, and with the most fearless and unfeeling decision; but wherever his own power was not endangered, nor due respect withheld, to behave with courtesy, liberality, condescension and friendship. His extreme love of power and state, induced him to govern too eagerly by his own mind and views; and to dislike to be shackled by the power, or to be led by the interference of others. Some of these principles, by which he meant to have most firmly consolidated his throne, will be found to have greatly contributed to overthrow

¹⁷ The grant is in the Harl. MSS. 433, p. 107, 108; it stiles Buckingham, his right trusty and entirely beloved cousin, and also heir of blood of Humphry Bohun, late earl of Hereford; and mentions 'the true, faithful,

and laudable service which our said cousin hath, in many sundry wise done unto us, to our right singular will and pleasure.' *Ib.*

¹⁸ More, 254.

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overthrow it. His intentions, as to his deposed nephew, and the younger brother, were, so far as he disclosed them to Buckingham, to preserve their lives; and to maintain them in such an honorable state, as would content the whole nation¹⁹. That Edward's presence should have been a part of his coronation state, is in unison with this declaration.

To exhibit his state to the eye of his early friends, in the northern counties, with ostentatious pageantry, as the Croyland doctor, who was then alive, and observing him, declares²⁰; and to enjoy it in their admiration and applause; and at the same time to overawe and tranquillize the disorderly and violent in those parts, as others intimate²¹; he resolved to make a progressive circuit through various counties of England, to the north of the metropolis. He rewarded the rude army that had marched from beyond the Humber, to support him; and dismissed them to their homes²². No incident could express greater reliance on the popularity of his conduct, or of his accession, than thus parting with his military auxiliaries; and committing himself, with only his retinue of state, to the feelings and unawed intercourse of the population of the country.

He began his tour of state through Reading, which he reached on the 23d of July²³. At Oxford, the bishop Wainfleet received him and his queen²⁴, with that ceremony and gratulation which this illustrious university is accustomed to display towards its sovereigns; and from thence he moved to Gloucester. Thus far Buckingham appears to have accompanied him; but, at this

¹⁹ Grafton, 815. Hall, 387. The duke also told Morton, that Richard assured him, and the lords, that he intended to keep the crown only, till Edward V. should be twenty-four years of age, and were able to govern the realm, like a mature and sufficient king. Ib.

²⁰ Croyl. cont. 567. '*Quam diligentissime poterat ostentare.*' Ib.

¹ Hall, 376. Fabian also suggests, 'to

pacify that country, and to redresse certayne ryotes there lately dooen.' p. 516.

²² Hall, 376. He sent the son and heir of his brother Clarence, to Sheriff Hutton's castle in Yorkshire, to have no danger from him. Pol. Virg. 546.

²³ Here he signed a warrant, in favour of lady Hastings. Harl. MSS. p. 109.

²⁴ Wood. Antiq. Ox. 1, p. 233.

town, he parted from this friend, whom he had now made inferior only to himself in the kingdom. No visible diminution of their mutual attachment here occurred. They took leave of each other, in "most loving and trusty manner;" and the duke went to Brecon, loaded "with great gifts and high behests"²⁵!

He passed on to Tewkesbury, the scene of his greatest martial exploit, when only nineteen, on the 4th of August²⁶; and thence, turning southward, he reached Warwick before the 8th of that month.

Having sent to the powers abroad, official annunciation of his accession, he received their answers in the first part of his summer progress. The answer of Louis XI. the French king, who was soon after seized with those fits that ended his Machiavellian life, was civil, short, and cold.

"I have seen the letter you have written by your herald Blanc Sanglier, and thank you for the tidings you have communicated; and if I can do you any service, I will do it with a very good heart, for I wish much to have your friendship—adieu my dear cousin²⁷." Richard's reply was as measured and laconic; as if he had felt, that he had received only a slight compliment of verbal decorum. "My dear cousin, I have seen the letters you sent me by the herald Buckingham, by which I understand, that you wish much to have my friendship. I am very well contented with this in good form and manner²⁸." The most wary politicians could hardly

²⁵ More, 254.

²⁶ He then gave the abbot of Tewkesbury 310*l.* out of the rents of his brother Clarence's estate. Harl. MSS. 110.

²⁷ The French letter is in Harl. MSS. p. 236. It is signed 'Loys', and dated 21 July.

²⁸ Harl. MSS. p. 237. Louis died 30 August, 1483. Comines declares he never knew any prince less faulty in the main; 1 p. 45; and that he had been obeyed by every one, as if all Europe had been created for no other end, but to be commanded by him. Yet he

gave his physician 10,000 crowns a month, that he might be interested to preserve his life. p. 80. No man more fearful of death; he ordered his servants never to mention the word in his presence. p. 81. The same author describes his restless ambition, faithlessness, jealousies, personal misery; his tyrannical cages of wood and iron for prisoners; and his fortifying himself in a castle, with watch towers, and bowmen to lie in the ditches, from the dread of his nobility, whom he was continually abasing. 83—93.

hardly have been more frugal of phrase and feeling, than these two royal correspondents, on the most interesting occasion of regal life—the grandest incident of individual history; but Louis may have considered Richard's elevation, rather as an assumption, than as a just accession.

The duke of Burgundy's reception of his communication, was perhaps, from his political situation, more cordial²⁹; and the king's reply displayed a desire to convert his superior courtesy into a friendly feeling³⁰. The greatest balm to Richard's heart, at this time, must have been the kind notice of his equals. What is seized by violence, is held with a jealous sensibility, both to alarm and censure, that makes every soothing word or demeanor a sweet and welcome boon.

But the highest gratification which he could receive from the attention of foreign princes, he enjoyed at Warwick, on the 8th of August, from the ambassador of Isabella, the queen of Castile, who patronised Columbus; and who gave to Ferdinand of Leon, that additional sceptre, which enabled him to expel the Moors from Granada, and to make Spain one united Christian kingdom. We connect these circumstances with the recollection of her name, because the statement which she authorized her "Orator Granfidus de Savola," to make, show how greatly the course of European and American history, and therefore of the whole world, might have been changed, if Edward IV. instead of marrying hastily the widow Grey, had accepted of the hand of the important, and not unwilling Isabella.

The king assembled the lords of his council, and sat in royal state, at Warwick, to receive the acceptable envoy. The commissioned Spaniard, in his public address, declared that his queen had

²⁹ Harl. MSS. ib. It is dated Gand, 30 July.

³⁰ Richard's answer is dated 20 August, at Nottingham castle; it begins, 'Monsieur mon cousin, je me recommande, a vous tous

que je puis. J'ai receut par mon huissier Blanc Sanglier, your letter; and contains a familiar application to him, about buying some wines for him and his queen. Harl. MSS. p. 237.

had been turned in her heart from England, in time past, for the unkindness which she had taken against Edward, for *his refusal of her*, and taking instead, to his wife, a widow of England. This cause had moved her against her nature, which had ever been to like and favor England, to take part with the French monarch; and to make leagues and confederations with him. But as the king was dead, who had showed her this unkindness; and as the sovereign of France had broken four principal articles, that had been signed between him and Castile, she now wished to return to her natural disposition towards the English realm³¹. Savola then delivered a written proposal, that if Richard would make war upon Louis XI. to recover the ancient possessions of the crown of England, in France, she would give to his armies and captains her maritime ports free and secure, and victuals and necessary arms, on just payment; and would, if need were, send knights, heroes, and men, to co-operate³². Isabella's own letter of credence to the king, was presented by her ambassador to him³³. This recognition of

³¹ Harl. MSS. p. 235.

³² Ib.

³³ It is 'Muy esclarecido rey; muy caro et muy amado primo: Nos la reyna de Castilla, de Leon, de Arragon, de Secilia, &c. vos embiamos mucho saludas como a quel que mucho amamos et preciamos et para quien quervuimos que Dios diese tanta vida salua et honra quanta vos mesmo desayb. Faceanos vos saber que nos enbiamos a vos al bacheller de Sasiola del nostro consillo et qual de nostre parte vos hablara algunas cosas; muy afectuosamente vos rogamos le dedere entere fee et creencia, muy esclarecido rey, nostro muy caro et muy amado primo. Dios nostro senor, todos tiempos vos aya en su protection et recomienda de la abeaæ de sancto Domingo de la calcada.

6 June 1483.

'Yo la reyna,

'Al muy esclarecido rey de Ynglaterra, nostro muy caro et muy amado primo.'

This translation follows in the MS.

'Right excellent king; our right dear and

right entirely beloved: We, the queen of Castile, Leon, Arragon, Sicily, &c. send you many greetings as to him that we greatly love and praise, and him to whom we beseech God to grant as much life, health, and honor, as yourself desires. We let you know that we send unto you the bachellor of Sasiola of our counsel, which on our behalf shall show you certain things, praying you of affectionate mind unto him, to give faith and credence, right excellent king, our right dear and intirely beloved. May our Lord God always have you in his protection and recommendation.

To the right excellent king of England,
our right dear and right intirely beloved.

Harl. MS. Ib. p. 236. Unless the Spanish government anticipated Richard's enthronement, or assimilated him to the king, in his protectorial capacity, this, from the date, must have been addressed to Edward V.; but it was delivered to Richard as meant for him.

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of his sovereignty and public solicitation of his exertions, in a popular war against France, was the most propitious and flattering circumstance, that he could, at this juncture receive. He referred the request to the consideration of his cabinet council³⁴. He knighted the ambassador soon afterwards, at York; and wrote grateful letters to Ferdinand and Isabella, thanking them for their friendship and alliance³⁵.

He proceeded on his tour, and was at Coventry on the 15th of August. He there signed a memorandum for 180*l*. owing for goods furnished to the lady Anne, his queen consort³⁶. At Leicester, on the 17th of August, he ordered 2,000 Welsh bills to be made for him, in all haste possible; and authorized one of the ushers of his chamber, to take in any place where it should be found most expedient to him, as many smiths as he should think necessary, for the accomplishment of this intent³⁷; and two days afterwards he issued his summons, from the same town of Leicester, to several knights and gentlemen, to attend at the castle of Pomfret, on the 27th of that month³⁸. On the 22d of August, we find him at Nottingham³⁹, from which he answered Burgundy; and nine days afterwards at York⁴⁰.

As the person of Richard was unquestionably short⁴¹, though his

³⁴ Harl. MSS. 235. 'We send it to you, to the intent we may have your good advertisement what is further to be done in this matter.' This was the 9th August. Rymer has printed the ratification of the treaty, dated Aug. 31, V. 12, p. 197.

³⁵ Rym. Fed. 12, p. 200—1. Comines.

³⁶ Harl. MSS. 109.

³⁷ Ib. p. 110.

³⁸ The copy in the Harl. MSS. was addressed to Sir John Assheton, knight, and to 69 other persons. p. 111.

³⁹ Harl. MSS. p. 112.

⁴⁰ Ib. p. 126.

⁴¹ If Richard had not been short, the prelate who came ambassador to him from Scot-

land, would not, in his complimentary address delivered to him on his throne, have quoted these lines:

—'nunquam tantum animum natura *minori* Corpore, nec tantas, visa est, includere vires. Major in *exiguo* regnabat corpore virtus.'

Bucke, p. 572. Nor would he have made such an allusion, if it had not been well known that Richard cared not about it. So Pol. Virgil represents Dr. Shaw, as calling on the people to remark, that he was 'pusillus' like his father, and not 'statura magnus' as Edward IV. was known to be. p. 544. Rouse, his contemporary, mentions that he was 'corpore parvus; parvæ staturæ.' p. 216 —18.

his face was handsome⁴²; and as his figure was small and had been much weakened by illness⁴³; and his left arm seems to have been a shrunk or defective limb⁴⁴; it is rather singular, that he should have been so fond of personal exhibitions in public state, where almost every surrounding courtier must have excelled him in that appearance and deportment, which strike or fascinate the eye. But a vigorous mind never feels or thinks of its boldly imperfections. Conscious of its own powers, using them with energy, and undervaluing all other distinctions, Richard cared as little for his dwarfish height, as Alexander the Great, for his wry neck. Both loved fame, admiration, and audible applause, too much, to forego the gratification from any dread of personal criticism. The visible pomp of ceremonial majesty, centering in himself, which he could display; the animating acclamations from the surrounding myriads, which he could hear; and the venerating homage of the proud nobles, assiduous knights, and delighted citizens, that he could behold, were sources of enjoyment to Richard's taste and self-admiration, which overwhelmed all sense or belief of any depreciating

⁴² I think that the declaration of the old countess of Desmond, who had danced with Richard, that he was the handsomest man in her room, except his brother, (Walp. Hist. Doubts, p. 102,) sufficient evidence as to the beauty of his face; and it seems to me to be implied, by the Scotch orators saying to him, 'he beholds *thy face* worthy of the highest empire and command.' Bucke, 572. Polydore Virgil decribed it to have been like his father's, short and compact, without the fullness of his brother's. p. 544. Rouse also mentions him as 'curtam habens faciem.' p. 216. More mentions his face to have been hard favored or warly, p. 154; which Grafton understands to be warlike, p. 758; as Hall also, p. 343; though he chuses to add from himself, the epithet of crabbed. As his body was publicly exposed after his fall in battle, for some time at Leicester, the distorted features of violent death, in a state of the highest exertion and passion, may have fixed an un-

favourable impression of his countenance on the crowds that flocked to contemplate him.

⁴³ That he was 'viribus debilis,' or weak in body, we have the sufficient authority of Rouse. p. 218. I have lost my note of the authority from which I take the facts of Richard's previous illness; and can therefore only mention it from memory, without being able to specify the reference.

⁴⁴ If this had not been well known to be the fact, it is not likely it would have had so prominent a part in More's detail of the arrest of Hastings. p. 202. He declares that 'no man was there present but well knew that his arm was ever such since his birth. Ib. Rouse mentions his having unequal shoulders; the right the highest, p. 216. This may have been true: the striking deformity would rest on the degree. For the hump back and crooked form, I think we have no adequate authority.

depreciating inferiority, even to his late tall and dignified brother. Hence, he courted that kingly state, which Edward slighted; and as he could not shine like him, at the dance or the banquet, he multiplied the occasions of public pageantry, to gain that admiration for his regal splendor, which nature had denied him from her elegant proportions.

At Nottingham the idea seems to have suddenly occurred to him, of having a day of splendid state at York, with the unusual ceremony of a second coronation. That the city which had so much befriended his family, and in which he had so frequently resided, might see him in all that exalting display of majesty, which adds awe to attachment; and feasts the vanity with a banquet to the senses as well as to the self-contemplating mind, was no unnatural wish in a man so fond of the dramatic parade of new greatness; and he prepared for the gratification with much elaborate and forethinking care. On the 23d of August, his secretary wrote from Nottingham to the mayor of York, directing him to prepare to receive Richard and his queen: to dispose himself to do as well with the suitable pageants, as on so short a warning could be devised; and to have the streets hung, through which the king would pass, with cloaths of arms and tapestry⁴⁵. Having sent this precursory excitation, he moved on to the northern metropolis; and correspondently to his wishes, the citizens received him with the pomp and triumph that he had called for and loved; and plays and pageants were for several days exhibited, in token of their joy, and for his amusement as well as for their own. He commended earnestly these loyal effusions; and to please both himself and them, appeared among them in his royal robes, with the sceptre in his hand, and the diadem on his head. He issued proclamations, that all proper persons should resort to York, on the day he named, to behold him, with his queen and son, in their high estate and degree; and to receive his thanks for their good will⁴⁶. On the 31st

⁴⁵ Drake's Eborac. p. 116.

⁴⁶ Grafton, p. 807.

31st of August, he dispatched a written mandate to the keeper of his wardrobe, in London, to deliver to the bearers, the rich dresses, in which he was desirous of exhibiting himself at his meditated ceremony; and he specifies these with an exactness and descriptive detail, as if they were as minutely registered in his manly memory, as in that of his queen's mistress of the robes. The abundance and variety of what he sends for, imply a solicitude for his personal exhibition, which we should rather look for from the fop that annoyed Hotspur, than from the stern and warlike Richard III⁴⁷. But it was the foible of his heart; and like all the secret idols of our self-love, it kept its station within its interior temple; however bustling and contrasted might be the living scenery that surrounded it.

On the appointed day, the clergy led the state procession in copes richly vested; and at the most impressive part of the moving pomp, the king appeared with his crown and sceptre, in the fullest majesty which royal apparel could impart. A numerous train of nobility

⁴⁷ 'We will and charge you to deliver to the bringers hereof, *for us*, the parcels following: He then enumerates,

One doublet of purple sattin, lined with galand cloth, and outlined with buske.

One ditto, of tawney sattin, lined in likewise.

Two short gowns of crimson cloth of gold, that one with droppue, and that other with nett, lined with green velvet.

One cloke, with a cape of violet ingrained, the both lined with black velvet.

One stomacher of purple satin.

One ditto of tawny.

One gown of green velvet, lined with tawny sattin.

One yard three quarters corse of silk, medled with gold.

As moche black corse of silk for *our spurs*.

One yard and an half and two nails of white cloth of gold for a crynebre for a barde.

Five yards of black velvet for lining of a gown of green sattin.

One plackard, made of part of the same.

Two nails of white cloth of gold, lined with buckram.

Three pair of spurs, short, all gilt.

Two pair of spurs, long, white, parcel gilt.

Two yards of black buckram for amendment of the lining of divers trappures.

One banner of sarsenet, of our Lady.

Ditto, of the Trinity.—Ditto of St. George.—

Ditto, of St. Edward.—Ditto, of St. Cuthbert.

One, of our own arms, all sarsenet.

Three coats of arms, beaten with fine gold, *for our own person*.

Five coats of arms, for heralds, lined with buckram.

Forty trumpet banners of sarsenet.

340 pensills of buckram.

350 pensills of tarteryn.

4 standards of sarsenet with boars.

13 guynfins of fustian, with boars.

This has been printed from the Harl. MSS. N^o 433. p. 126, in 1 Kennett, p.

nobility followed, preceding his queen, bearing also her diadem; and leading in her hand their little son, ten years old, with golden rod, and demy-crown. The effect was as great as the kingly contriver had anticipated or could desire. The flattered and delighted populace of the rude north, which had never witnessed such a spectacle since the days of the Anglo-Saxon octarchy, shouted their tumultuous rapture, and extolled him to the skies⁴⁸.

While he remained at York, he knighted the Spanish ambassador⁴⁹. He appointed one on his part, to compliment Ferdinand and Isabella⁵⁰; renewed his brother's league with them; and besides his credentials, addressed to both⁵¹, he wrote a separate letter to her of friendship and congratulation⁵². In answer to an application, from James III. of Scotland, he expressed his wishes of remaining at peace with that country⁵³. He created his son prince of Wales⁵⁴; and after having thus enjoyed his royal state and authority, he left York for Pomfret, soon after the middle of September.

From Pomfret castle he wrote, on the 22d of September, to the mayor and corporation of Southampton; assuring them, that he would not suffer his dearest son, the prince, to intermeddle within their franchises, in the cause complained of⁵⁵. The prince was at that time, under the care of lord Richard Bernall; and travelled in his chariot⁵⁶. He appears to have been, at that time, reading a most

⁴⁸ Grafton, 807. Pol. Virgil, 547. Croyland also mentions, that he held the most sumptuous and pompous feasts and banquets, to allure the minds of so great a people, 567.

⁴⁹ On 8 September. Rym. 12, p. 200.

⁵⁰ This was Barnard de la Forssa, 'whom his highness at this time sendeth to his derest cousyns, the king and queen of Spayne.' Harl. MSS. p. 244.

⁵¹ Ib.

⁵² Ib. p. 246. Richard's answer to queen Isabella, dated York, 9 Sept. was in Latin. It addresses her as most serene princess; our dearest cousin; your sublimity; wishes her every increase of happy fortune; assures her,

that her ambassador had very prudently discharged his trust; and expressed many things, which the king had heard with the greatest pleasure. He informs her of the renewal of the treaty of amity between the two nations; and that he has commissioned his noble counsellor, Bernard de la Forssa, to transact with her all further measures.

⁵³ The letters of the two kings are in the Harl. MSS. p. 247.

⁵⁴ Hist. Croyl. 567. Pol. Virg. 547.

⁵⁵ Harl. MSS. p. 115.

⁵⁶ The warrant expresses besides, three waynes, 'for th' expense of my lord prince's chariot; for their bating of the chariot at York.'

a most costly primmer, corded with black satin, and his psalter; and to have been carefully surrounded with his due proportion of state⁵⁷: and though the improving boy was studying all his exercises and letters in England, his father appointed him lord lieutenant of Ireland⁵⁸.

Up to this period, Richard had done nothing contrary to the spirit of his age, or offensive to the moral feelings of the influencing classes. His measures, although to us, who now balance all actions in the scales, not of worldly expedience, but of impartial rectitude, they appear to have been iniquitously violent; yet were considered by many, at that time, to have been politically wise, and most promotive on the whole, of the public tranquillity. Hence, though several may have lamented, few censured; most applauded, and all acquiesced. He might have reigned, like Henry IV. or Edward IV. alarmed by occasional and suppressible conspiracy, or partial insurrections; yet not endangered by any general disaffection. But Richard had not the constitutional intrepidity, or carelessness of his brother. Brave, to the utmost edge of peril in the martial conflict, he was an intellectual coward; and

York.' Harl. MSS. 118. So that the term is of some antiquity.

⁵⁷ The Harl. MSS. has preserved the warrant, (dated 25 Sept.) to allow 196*l.* 10*s.* for the expenses of the prince; and the particulars which it specifies, shows the minuteness of Richard's memory, and attention to all the points of dress, and of his families concerns.

For green cloth for my lord prince.

For making of gowns of the same cloth.

For chusing of the king of West Witton; for rushes; for a cloth sack; for a horse bought.

For a feather to my lord prince.

Shoemaker, for stuff for my lord prince.

For the chusing of the king of Middelym.

For offerings for my lord prince, to our Lady, in several places.

Twenty-pence for my lord's drinking at King House.

For trussing cords; bridle bitt.

13*s.* 4*d.* for a prymer for my lord the prince.

7*s.* 10*d.* black sattin, for cording of it, and a psalter,

For my lord prince drinking at

31*l.* 0*s.* 10*d.* for the expenses of my lord prince's household, and the lord Richard, from St. Clymnesse to Midsummer-day.

6*s.* 8*d.* to M. D. for running on foot by side of my lord prince.

For cost of the hounds.

For coming with the jewels from London.

23*s.* 4*d.* for expense of my lord prince household, from York to Pomfret.

For three waynes, from York to Pomfret.

For the expense of my lord prince's chariot, from York to Pomfret.

For their batyng of the chariot at York.

For black velvet and fustian.

Harl. MSS. p. 118.

⁵⁸ MSS. ib. p. 24.

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and preferred to prevent danger by crime, to conquering it by honorable combat, and unimpeachable valor. All his violences may be referred to this principle. Like the tyger, he would struggle unshrinkingly to death, in the battle; but he would, if possible, crouch, crawl, and spring upon his victim when unprepared, and destroy him without the possibility of resistance. The difference may have proceeded, from Edward's having made his ambition but his secondary gratification; while, in Richard, it was the first. Less personable than his brother, his vanity preferred power to female admiration. Richard was always afraid of his competitors; Edward defied them. Edward fought from the heart's impulse and pleasure; Richard, from self-interest, pride, and necessity. Hence, Richard debased himself by wickedness, which Edward would have disdained. Alarm, jealousy, suspicion, and irritable vanity, debilitated the great qualities of the usurping king; while Edward was so fond of confidence, so self-relying, and so incapable of mistrust, that he never credited the possibility of his dangers till they occurred; and then leapt, at once, from the sybarite into the hero; and subdued them with an explosion of talent, that seemed like inspiration; and yet which vanished as surprisingly, with the occasion that inflamed it. Hence, though his beloved queen, and her preferred relations, labored to fill his mind with doubts of Richard's conduct, they never could make him distrust or displace his brother. His own heart was, to him, a sufficient pledge for this prince's fidelity; and he employed him to the last, in the highest stations of confidence, till he expired. We may add, that while Edward lived, Richard never violated the trust which had been so generously reposed in him.

If Richard had acted with this moral courage, towards his dethroned nephew, and not attempted his life, his reign might have been long and glorious. But he forgot, that the natural ties of blood between uncle and nephew, are felt and venerated by the universal heart; and that no one is so poor or base, as not to acknowledge,

acknowledge, exhibit, and exact the obligations. He violated this sacred bond ; and the war of human nature began in every breast against him. CHAP.
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From Pomfret, Richard proceeded gradually through Gainsborough to Lincoln, which he reached on the 12th of October⁵⁹. Not a cloud had occurred to disturb his political serenity, when he reached Pomfret ; but after he left that castle, rumors of secret conspiracies began to reach his ear.

It is everlastingly true, that he who conquers by force, has overcome but half his foe. All the passions of hate, fear, and revenge, continue unabated ; and are as restless as they are tormenting. Richard and his friends had beaten down the party of the queen, and the young king ; but its leaders were still in sanctuaries and privileged places, where Richard could not assail them ; and his coronation amnesty had not appeased their resentment. They wanted power and revenge, not pardon ; and they continued their secret but active machinations against him.

Since the coronation, the princes had been withdrawn from public sight ; and it was presumed, that this would have prevented the public sympathy or recollection about them. On the contrary, it increased what it was meant to suppress. The people, especially in the southern and western counties, became uneasy at their confinement, and anxious for their liberation. At first, they talked on the point, in secret confidence. Some became more open in their sensibilities. Mutual communications of a common feeling, produced meetings, of which the retired and sheltered chiefs eagerly availed themselves. They advised, that the queen's daughters, at least, should be made safe, and be taken in disguise from Westminster to foreign parts ; in order that the crown should, through them, return to the true heritors, if any evil should be perpetrated on the princes⁶⁰.

Immediately, on being apprized of these devices, Richard, with his

⁵⁹ On 10th October, he signed at Gainsborough a warrant, to pay the prior of Carlisle

£. 5. towards making a glass window there. MS. ib. p. 120.

⁶⁰ Croyl. 567.

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his usual promptness and decision, had the abbey and all the circumjacent places surrounded with military works, like a castle or a fortress; and appointed, as keepers, men of great sternness, under one John Nesffeld, who watched all the passages to the abbey, and would suffer no one to go out or to enter, without reference to him⁶¹.

But the disturbed feeling increased, not only in the metropolis, but in all the surrounding counties; and all the king's political enemies began to hope, that some commotion, advantageous to their interests, would occur⁶². In this disquieting state, Richard became astonished to hear, and the discontented delighted to learn, that the name of the duke of Buckingham was connecting itself with this insurrectionary disposition.

This new and unexpected state of things came, like a summer's sudden thunder-storm, on the king. He had been exulting in all the joyous self-congratulation of his secured and elevating greatness; when he found a tempest collecting around him, to hurl him from the proud summit on which he thought himself seated, for a long life of honor and applause.

In the midst of this public perturbation, Richard deemed it for his interest to diffuse the report, that the princes were no more. How they had died, or when; by what decease, or from whose violence, no one knew, and no inquiry could ascertain. The certainty of their deaths, was all that was circulated; and these lamentable tidings, in this mysterious form, were left to have their expected effect of acting as a sedative to the public sympathy⁶³. That their deaths would terminate all commotions, by teaching discontent its hopelessness; and compel every mind to regard Richard's line as their only dynasty, was the self-flattering calculation of his policy. He was astonished to find, that a burst of public

⁶¹ Croyl. 568. The Harl. MS. contains several grants to Nesffeld, p. 27, 38, 75.

⁶² Ib.

⁶³ Pol. Virgil ascribes the circulation of the

report to the king himself, for this purpose. p. 547. Grafton also declares, 'that he caused the rumor to be spread.' p. 805.

public indignation, and violent sensibility, immediately followed, which portended the most perilous hostility. In every town, street, and public place, crowds assembled, openly wept, and piteously sobbed⁶⁴. As their first lamentations subsided, the inward grudge increased; and a general cry arose, that to destroy innocent babes, was an action which the whole world abhorred; and that their blood called for vengeance from the Almighty providence. The queen was inexpressibly afflicted by the tidings. When they first reached her, she swooned senseless to the ground; and there lay long, in the apparent grasp of death. When feeling and memory at length returned, she called upon her children by various tender names, as if they could hear her invocations, and become again present to her sight. She bitterly accused herself for surrendering up her little York; and kneeling down, she implored heaven to avenge the treacherous perfidy of the destroyer, and her own irreparable loss⁶⁵. Whatever benefit Richard expected from the publication of his nephews' deaths, he failed utterly to acquire.

When the king found himself thus disappointed in the result, Had he left it in his own power to retrieve the mischievous effects, by contradicting his own report, and producing his nephew to public view? or had he, by an irrevocable crime, lost this advantage, and committed himself to those penal consequences, by which all guilt, sooner or later, finds itself to be pursued?—This is the nice question, which has divided the opinions of many able men; and the appearance, in the next reign, of a person, who pretended to be one of these princes, alledging that they had escaped from their uncle's intended cruelty, has caused some to doubt of that uncle's guilt. But it is certain, that Richard, during his short subsequent reign, never avowed that they were alive, or showed them to any one after the rumor of their fate; nor diffused any question of its truth, even when most pressed by Richmond's enmity.

⁶⁴ Graft. 806. I have sometimes fancied, that the popular ballad of the Children in the Wood, may have been written at this time,

on Richard and his nephews, before it was quite safe to stigmatize him more openly.

⁶⁵ Graft. 806.

enmity. Richard acted uniformly afterwards, as if they were dead and, upon an impartial consideration of all the facts that can be traced, connected with the dire transaction, there seems no just reason for disbelieving their catastrophe.

From the atrociousness of the transaction, it was necessarily so secretly planned and executed, that the precise incidents could not be publicly known; and the natural consequence of this ignorance was, that many would never credit so revolting a fact; and that few could agree upon its reported circumstances⁶⁶. The only writers we have, that were contemporary with the deed, were Fabian, Rouse and the author of the chronicle of Croyland. The first briefly mentions, that "the common fame went" that king Richard had, within the Tower, "put unto secret death the two sons of his brother"⁶⁷. Rouse remarks, "it was afterwards known to very few, by what death they suffered martyrdom." The last author declares, "It was commonly reported, that the said sons of Edward were dead; but by what kind of *violent* death, it was not known"⁶⁸. Polydore Virgil, nearly a contemporary, intimates the same uncertainty of the mode of their destruction⁶⁹.

The only detail we possess of the fate of these two princes, is transmitted to us by sir Thomas More, as he had heard it by such men and means, as it were hard but it should be true⁷⁰. He declares, that he learnt the particulars which he narrates, from those

⁶⁶ More remarks, 'Some yet remain in doubt, whether they were, in Richard's days, destroyed or no.' 245.

⁶⁷ P. 516. Fabian was a merchant, and had been sheriff of London, and died in 1512. 'He consequently lived on the spot, at this very interesting period.' Walpole Hist. Doubts, p. 16. Rouse, p. 215.

⁶⁸ Cont. Croyl. 569. The author of the continuation of the chronicle of Croyland, appears sometimes in a situation of personally knowing the transactions of the times; for we are told, in a marginal note, that he was a doctor of the canon law, and one of the

king's counsellors sent to Calais. Walp. ib. 16. The words of this doctor, in the text, do not imply, so much an uncertainty as to the violence of Edward's death, as of the kind of violence resorted to. Walpole, by misquoting the passage, has lessened its effect on himself, for he omitted to cite, and therefore to observe, the word '*violent*,' p. 70. Buck quotes the passage, with the same mistake, 551.

⁶⁹ 'Quo genere mortis miselli pueri affecti fuerint, non plane liquet.' But he declares decidedly, that Richard '*regios pueros necavit*,' p. 547. So Rouse calls them '*occisorum*.'

⁷⁰ More, 246.

those who knew much, and had little cause to lie; and that sir James Tyrell, who undertook the foul deed, and Dighton, one of the murderers, who perpetrated it, confessed the facts, as he has stated them⁷¹.

According to these authorities, Richard, as he rode to Gloucester, devised the deed; and sent one John Green to sir Robert Brakenbury, the constable of the Tower, desiring him to make away with them. Brakenbury refused; and Green returned to the king at Warwick, with this answer. Richard received it with displeasure; and exclaimed in the hearing of a page, "whom shall a man trust, when those that I have brought up myself; those whom I thought would most surely serve me, even these fail me; and at my command will do nothing for me?" The page remarked to him, that a man lay upon a pallet, in the outer chamber, who, to do him pleasure, would think nothing too hard. This was sir James Tyrrell, a brave man, but who saw with envy that sir Richard Ratcliff and Catesby, were soaring above him in his master's favor. The king, knowing Tyrrell's ambition, was struck with the recommendation; and going out to sir James, who was reposing with his brother Thomas, said merrily, "what, sirs, are you a-bed so soon?" Then calling sir James into his chamber, he proposed his purpose. Tyrrell assented, and was dispatched next day with a letter to Brakenbury, to deliver to him the keys of the Tower, *for one night*. Receiving these, the unprincipled knight fixed the next evening for their destruction.

Edward, on being informed of his uncle's coronation, had exclaimed, "Ah! would my uncle but let me have my life; though I should lose my kingdom:" but soon afterwards, finding that he and his brother were shut up close with only one rude servant to attend them, he apprehended what would be his fate. He never heeded his dress again; and they gave themselves up to lamentation and despair. Tyrrell resolved to kill them in their beds; and on

the

⁷¹ More, 251.

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the night after his arrival, introduced Miles Forrest, a noted ruffian, and John Dighton, his groom, "a big, broad, square, strong knave." The persons near the princes room were removed. The two murderers entered their chambers unperceived, at midnight. The princes were sleeping in their beds; the men wrapped them suddenly up and entangled them in the clothes; and throwing the feather bed and pillows upon their mouths, pressed these down till the poor children were smothered and expired. When the wretches saw that they were dead, they laid their bodies out on the bed, and called in Tyrrell to see them, who ordered them to be buried at the stair-foot, deep in the ground, under a heap of stones. Tyrrel then rode to the king, to inform him of the completion of the atrocious deed. Report added, that Richard disliking the place of their burial, Brakenbury's chaplain was said to have removed them to another place; but the murderers knew nothing of this removal⁷². Hence, this last circumstance was an unauthorized addition of a later age, which the future discovery of the bodies in a place like that described by Tyrrell, proves to have been fabulous.

The fair caution of disinterested inquiry justifies the question, Whether we have as much confirmation of this account, from other authentic circumstances, as we can reasonably expect, of a deed so disgraceful? The authentic facts that have also come to light, corroborating this account, are these:—The bodies were dug for in Henry the seventh's time, after the confession of the murderers, and were not found⁷³. This naturally created doubts at that time;

⁷² More, 246—250. Richard, by this time, must have reached Nottingham. He left Warwick, where Grene brought him Brackenbury's refusal, after the 13th of August. He was at Leicester on the 17th, 18th, and 19th; and at Nottingham before the 22d. These dates and places deserve attention, from their coincidence of time, between the murder of the princes and his own destruction. Both occurred in the month of August. He

must have been at Leicester, near to the spot where he himself was slain, on the very day, two years afterwards, on which his agents killed them; and he probably received and triumphed in the news, on the 22d, which was destined to be the day in which he lost both his own crown and life.

⁷³ Buck's life Rich. III. p. 552. But their remains could occupy only a small space; and unless the exact spot were hit upon, the whole

time; but the remains of two such bodies were accidentally discovered in the Tower, at the foot of a staircase, in the reign of Charles II⁷⁴; and thus one of the main facts of the narration, is fully ascertained. But there are also documents existing, which prove, that each of the persons concerned in the dire transaction, then existed, and received from Richard, special rewards. John Grene, the first messenger to Brackenbury, was one of the yeomen of the king's chamber; and was made receiver of the lordship of the Isle of Wight, and of the castle and lordship of Porchester⁷⁵. John Dighton, one of the assassins, had from the king the bailiffship of Aiton, in the county of Stafford, with the accustomed wages, for his life⁷⁶. Miles Forest, whom More calls a noted ruffian, was made keeper of the wardrobe, at Richard's mother's house, Bernard Castle; and dying before the Michaelmas of the year following the murder, an annuity of five marks was settled upon his widow, and her son Edward, to be paid out of the rents of that place⁷⁷. Sir James Tyrrell is described, in one of

whole area of the Tower might have been excavated in vain, without that failure being any disproof of the alledged act. Henry VII. either did not dig for them, or if he did, missed the place; and hence circulated the rumor of the chaplain's removing them. It is remarkable, that More introduces the account of this removal, with 'they say,' and 'I have heard,' p. 250, as if it had been no part of the murderer's confession.

⁷⁴ This discovery is thus stated: 'In the time of Chichester, master of the ordnance, great heaps of records of bills and answers, lying in the Six clerks office, were removed thence, to be deposited in the White Tower. As they were making a new pair of stairs into the chapel there, the laborers in digging at the foot of the old stairs, came to the bones of consumed corpses, covered with an heap of stones. The proportion of the bones was answerable to the ages of these two royal youths. Charles II. was so well satisfied

that these bones were theirs, that he had them honorably interred in Henry the seventh's chapel, among their ancestors, with an inscription, which thus mentions the discovery, 'Ossa desideratorum diu et multum quæsita post annos 191 scalarum in rudibus (scalæ istæ ad sacellum Turris Albæ nuper ducebant) alte defossa indiciis certissimis sunt reperta, 17 die Julii, A. D. 1674.' Annot. to Kennet, Hist. 1, p. 551. From this discovery it would seem, that they were found in a place similar to that in which they were mentioned to have been first buried; and that the chaplain's removal of them, was an unfounded supposition.

⁷⁵ 1 Kennet Hist. 552. There is also a general pardon to John Green, in the Harl. MSS. p. 28.

⁷⁶ Harl. MSS. N° 433, p. 55.

⁷⁷ I found in the Harl. MSS. N° 443. an order to pay her 5 marcs, for the wages due to her late husband, for this situation, p. 187;

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of the grants to him, as the king's trusty knight, for his body⁷⁸, and his counsellor⁷⁹. He was made steward of the dutchy of Cornwall, and an assessor of the land there; and steward of many lordships in South Wales and in its marches; supervisor of the castle of Guynes, and constable of the castle of Dundagel, and governor of Glamorganshire; and had several other gifts of wards and marriages⁸⁰. To sir Robert Brakenbury, the grants of manors and benefits are so numerous, as to imply more than usual reason for the royal liberality⁸¹; and one which appoints to him an annuity of forty pounds a year, from the 1st of August 1483⁸², is very remarkable, as that suits the time of the message sent him by Grene. His answer was brought back to the king, at Warwick, which city Richard reached between the 4th and 9th of August. Brackenbury would not commit the murder, but he acquiesced in letting Tyrrell be master of the Tower, for the night that was wanted for the perpetration of the crime; knowing the purpose of this intervention. He was, therefore, a complete accessory; and his rewards imply, that he was so considered and remunerated. They bribed also his silence; and he never quitted the chief murderer's service.

p. 187; and a grant of this annuity, p. 78. An Henry Forest was also appointed bailiff of Kymberworth, and keeper of the park, with the accustomed wages; and also an annuity of 13*l.* 18*s.* 4*d.* from the preceding Michaelmas. *id.* MSS. More says, this Miles Forest rotted peacemeal away, p. 251. The grant to his widow, proves, that he lived only a few months afterwards.

⁷⁸ Harl. MSS. p. 122.

⁷⁹ *Ib.* 202.

⁸⁰ See Harl. MSS. p. 26, 54, 58, 67, 75, 93, 104, 164, 200, 205. He was also employed on a mission over sea, into Flanders, 200; and Thomas Tyrrell had an annuity of forty pounds. p. 25.

⁸¹ Besides his appointment of constable of the Tower, he had a grant of 100*l.* a year, for life, and was made master of the mint.

To Several manors of lord Rivers, others of the Cheney's; and various lands in Kent, Sussex, and Surrey, were given to him. He was also made the receiver-general of the king's lands in these counties; the surveyor of many places in Essex and Kent, for life, with the accustomed wages; steward of all the forests in Essex; and of some lordships, and constable of the castle of Tunbridge, besides pecuniary grants. See Harl. MSS. p. 23, 56, 67, 75, 87, 91, 103. He also had 'the keeping of the LYONS in the Tower, for life, with the wages of twelve pence a day for himself, and sixpence a day for the meat of every lion and leopard.' *Ib.* p. 56.

⁸² The answer returned by Brackenbury, implies, not any moral reluctance, but a legal fear of consequences: 'that he would never put them to death, *to dis therefore.*' More. Harl. MSS. N° 433, p. 67, 247.

To these facts it may be added, that the murder of the princes was belived in the foreign courts, whose ambassadors were in England at the time; for Comines, who was so intimate with Louis XI. and the duke of Burgundy, states it unhesitatingly in his memoires, as a truth⁸³; though a report of their escape and survival was also circulated⁸⁴; which the lapse of time which had occurred, when the historian, who has transmitted it to us, penned it, sufficiently refutes. If the young king had escaped to some unknown part of the world, he must have re-appeared, or his residence and death have been heard of by the time that Polydore Virgil wrote, in the reign of Henry VIII. Such a rumor resembles that of the British belief, that their Arthur was not dead, and would revisit his expecting countrymen.

Sir Thomas More's intimation, that some doubted of this murder, even in his time; and lord Bacon's remark, that at Henry the seventh's accession, there were not wanting secret rumors and whisperings, which afterwards gathered strength, and turned to great troubles, that the two princes or one of them, were not indeed murdered, but secretly conveyed away, and were then living⁸⁵; were no more than such rumors or hopes as the friends of the house of York would circulate, in their anxiety to divest Richard's memory, as one of their party, from so great a stain, and to keep alive a discontent against Henry VII. The inevitable variety of surmises which could not but attend a transaction, that was necessarily kept, from its very atrocity, in the greatest silence and obscurity, will also sufficiently account for the scepticism of many. Almost all murders, from their privacy, are defective in direct evidence. Enmity to Henry afterwards, and the hope of their Edward the fourth's line not being extinct, would as certainly feed

⁸³ ' Il avoit fait mourir les deux fils du roi Edouard, son frere.' L. 6.

⁸⁴ So Polydore Virgil. ' In vulgus fama valuit filios Edwardi regis aliquo terrarum

partem migrasse atque ita superstites esse.' L. 2, c. 6.

⁸⁵ Bacon Hist. 1 K. p. 579.

feed and spread these rumors, however romantic, as long as that generation lasted, to whom it was material to realize them. That the story of their destruction should be also told in various ways, as More confesses, and Bucke intimates that it was⁸⁶, is coincident with the uniform experience of mankind, on all secret crimes and private occurrences. But More, whose abilities and integrity all confess, has left us this impressive declaration, that notwithstanding these doubts and variations, he selected the truest account from the best authorities⁸⁷.

It is unlikely that, of an action so generally reprobated; so dangerous to the safety of all the perpetrators, from popular indignation, and so indelibly infamous to their character, more certainty could be known, in Richard's life, than Fabian, Rouse and Croyland have expressed⁸⁸. Though he circulated their death, he denied their assassination. His power was ready to crush every known accuser, as a treasonable slanderer⁸⁹. His liberalities hushed to silence, all who could have revealed the dangerous truth. The non-appearance of the princes, to the usual attendants at the Tower, was all that could safely get abroad, on any real authority. Hence, the belief of their destruction, increasing every day from their continued invisibility, and strengthened by the new whispers circulated from Buckingham, and his new partisans, without any deciding certainty of the fact, or knowledge of the precise mode, would

⁸⁶ Bucke mentions two of the rumors that were circulated. One was, that the youths were embarked in a ship at the Tower wharf, and conveyed to the sea, to be there thrown into the deep; the other, that they were not drowned, but set somewhere safe ashore. p. 550.

⁸⁷ More, p. 547.

⁸⁸ This accounts for the expressions of the monk of Croyland, on which Walpole lays so much stress, p. 72, 3. The words, 'if any thing had happened to the boys in the Tower,' and that, 'during the coronation at York, they remained in the Tower,' only indicate

the author's uncertainty of their fate. No one could know the exact time of their deaths; and all would be unwilling for some time to believe it.

⁸⁹ He had one Collingbourne executed as a traitor, for writing this distich, alluding to his chief counsellors, Catesby, Ratcliffe, and Lovel, and to his own arms of the boar.

'The cat, the rat, and Lovel the dog,
Rule all England under the hog.'

Graft. 828.

But this man also maintained a treasonable correspondence with Richmond. See next chapter, note 43.

would be all that could pervade the public mind, until the actual perpetrators chose to disclose their self-degrading secret⁹⁰.

No date is, nor perhaps could be, given to the beginning or gradual progress of those secret murmurs, and consequential plottings, which arose from the public sympathy for the protracted confinement of the princes. The compassionating emotions of many, would arise as soon as Richard took the throne, in the last week of June. The queen's friends would undoubtedly, from that time, become more zealous; as they had, from that action, a juster ground to depreciate him. The compassionating emotions, and the plans which these excited, probably increased, as the month of July advanced; and by the beginning of August, enough of them may have reached Richard's too-watchful ear, to have agitated or determined his alarmed ambition, to endeavour to end the growing danger, by destroying its innocent cause. This view sufficiently suits the reported chronology of the direful action; and as the worst of men cannot shed blood without compunction⁹¹, it seems more natural to ascribe the murder of the princes rather to Richard's accustomed policy, of anticipating perils by the most daring violence, than to any depraved cruelty of a villanous temper. Our nature may become sadly defiled, but it has great aspirings, and generous sympathies; nor will Richard be thought to have been without them, when the whole of his actions are impartially considered.

The

⁹⁰ To Walpole's summary of objections against the supposed murder, 125—7, may be opposed the reasons of Mr. Hume, adopted by Mr. Gibbon, for accrediting it. See Hume's History, and Gibbon's remarks on lord Orford's book, in his Miscellaneous Works, v. 3, p. 341—9. M. Laing's observations have been considered by M. Lingard. The new facts adduced in this history, may be allowed to place Richard's other actions in a light more favourable to his character; but on the murder of his nephews, his memory must remain with all its former

stains. It can neither be vindicated nor denied.

⁹¹ In the last month, I read of a hardened, and long practised depredator, who went up stairs to collect the booty, while his companions secured the family, so shocked on coming down, to see the master of the house, who had resisted, expiring on the floor, that he ran immediately out of it, abandoning the booty; and never joined the same associates again. I cannot but think, that Richard decided reluctantly on the deed, to secure his own safety.

The sudden idea, conceived while he was at Nottingham, of a second coronation at York, may have had some connection with his nephew's death, of which, at or just before this time, he became apprized. This event made him the next male heir to the crown; and the strange sophistry, which at times beguiles the strongest reason, may have led him to imagine, that a subsequent coronation would have some mysterious efficacy of converting usurpation into a more conscientious right. The ceremonial religion of that day abounded with these self-misleading illusions. Even the voice of law has not hesitated to say, that the succession to the crown removes all preceding criminality. Richard may have learnt this maxim from Catesby; and to benefit himself by its legal and religious balm, as well as to gratify his love of pomp, he may have resorted to his re-consecration in York cathedral.

But if public sympathy only had arisen to disquiet him, though he would have been mortified by the departure of that popular estimation, which no one loses with indifference, and of which he was so peculiarly fond; yet he would not have been permanently endangered by a sensibility, that usually, if left to itself, subsides, ere long, into tranquil aversion, or conversational censure. But he was astonished to find, that it was headed by an active leader; that Buckingham was this promoting chieftain; and that the intimation of the deaths of his nephews, instead of precluding all further disloyalty, had only led the dissatisfied mind to look elsewhere for a new sovereign, and to have already selected the young earl of Richmond for this high station; a competitor, whom Richard, at that time, could only undervalue and despise.

This revolution in Buckingham was one of the most extraordinary circumstances of this unprincipled and anti-natural period; in which all the moral bonds between man and man, friend, relation, king and subject, seemed to have been as fleeting and as fragile as the winter's icicle. It appears to have even astonished Richard himself, for he calls him, in his own postscript to the letter he wrote,

wrote, as soon as he knew of it, on the 12th of October, "the most untrue creature living—that had the most cause to be true"⁹²; and considering, that those who had stood in the duke's way, with claims for power and emolument, Hastings, Rivers, and others, had perished; and that no other nobleman had so much aided Richard, and so efficaciously; and, therefore, that he possessed so completely the vantage ground, for the royal favor, and its consequential advantages; it is surprizing, that Buckingham should have preferred rebellion to aggrandizement; and treason, with all its perils, to elegant, honored, and gratified security.

We have no transmitted explanation of his motives, but the rather-gossiping narrative of Sir Thomas More, derived apparently from cardinal Morton, with its continuation, by other chroniclers; and from this, and from the impartial exertion of unbiassed historical criticism, we must endeavor to account for a phenomenon so peculiar.

That the duke, directly after the demise of Edward IV. sent to Richard, at York, a private offer of his attachment and services⁹³; and from that time, had steadily counselled; and without either moral hesitation, or legal timidity, had co-operated with the protector up to his coronation, every authority concurs to prove. The cause of their subsequent difference, Sir Thomas More confesses to have been variously reported⁹⁴; but it is manifest, that the duke himself began the hostility.

That it arose, as some declared, from the king's rejection of his solicitation for the lands of the earl of Hereford⁹⁵, is refuted by the royal grant already noticed⁹⁶. But More says, that he accused the king to Morton, of *delaying* this concession⁹⁷. This may be true. The official instrument, which was not granted till a week after the coronation, may have been yielded with a reluctance,

as

⁹² See the letter cited in the following note, 75.

⁹³ More, p. 252.

⁹⁴ More, 253.

⁹⁵ *Ib.*

⁹⁶ See before p. 473.

⁹⁷ More, 253.

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as offensive to an haughty spirit as a denial; and the terms of this document, which left it, in fact, to a distant parliament to confirm or annul, gave no unquestionable certainty, that the coveted possessions would be ultimately enjoyed. Richard manifestly, by this mode of granting them, preserved the power of defeating his own favor, by the voice of parliament, if circumstances should arise to lessen the duke's cordiality, or to alter his own policy. He may have intentionally placed it in this position, as a cautionary tie upon Buckingham's stability. The duke may have felt this; and have also considered such a provisional favor as little better than that personal refusal, which he chose to complain of to Morton⁹⁸.

But Buckingham also stated other grievances. He declared, that he had been refused the high constableness of England, which many of his predecessors had enjoyed⁹⁹. This office Richard chose to give to lord Stanley, who walked in it at the coronation¹⁰⁰. This may have roused the duke's jealousy, with the fear of an advancing rival; as well as mortified his proud rapacity. He complained also, that he had thought the king to be as tractable, and without cruelty, as he now found him to be the contrary¹⁰¹. The death of the princes, without his agreeing or condescending, was another complaint¹⁰²; probably because it announced, that his services for further violences, were not essential; and that others could be found as auxiliary as himself. It is highly probable, that Richard soon began to act the independent king; and to show, that he meant to have no lordly governor, to the disappointment of Buckingham's presuming and expected dictatorship. To

⁹⁸ More, 253. Yet Richard had given him so much wealth, as to enable him to boast, that he had as many liveries of Stafford Knotts as the great earl of Warwick had of ragged staves. Rous, Hist.

⁹⁹ Grafton, 816. He was, however, made, after Richard's accession, lord chamberlain, Harl. MSS. p. 433, p. 22, the long retained dignity of Hastings.

¹⁰⁰ Graft. 800. Yet there is a grant of this office to Buckingham, in the Harl. MSS. 433, p. 22; but it has been obliterated. Dugdale makes the 15th July the date of this appointment, 1 Bar. 169. It may have been, at last, extorted by importunity; but it was conferred on Stanley again; for there is a grant of it to him in the same MS. p. 29.

¹⁰¹ Ib. 815.

¹⁰² Ib. 816.

To these avowed motives, we may also add, that both were too fond of personal state and popular admiration, to be capable of acting cordially together, on the high public stage of courtly life. The king's splendor necessarily outshone the duke's; and from Richard's peculiar taste, was ostentatiously displayed. Buckingham could not but feel this, in every step of the progress from London to Gloucester. The ducal fop was transcended by the royal coxcomb; and could only see his master's superiority with a malign envy, which would recollect, that that master was indebted to him for the splendor and exaltation, which sank him to be but its page and dwarf, and ministering contributor¹⁰³.

Richard enjoyed his own pomp with too much self-complacency, to think of the duke's feelings, on this subject, unless to be secretly gratified with his own superiority. But the facts, that although Buckingham was his lord chamberlain, he did not invite the duke to attend him farther; nor to be the companion of his state, when he received the Spanish ambassador at Warwick; nor at his York festivities and coronation, discover to us, that he also felt himself to be incumbered or inconvenienced, in some respect or other, by the duke. Whether he found this nobleman making himself too prominent, or assuming too much authority; or too craving in his demands, or too fretful from some ill-concealed dissatisfaction, it is certain, that he parted from him at Gloucester: though with every exterior testimony of honor and liberalities; and pursued his royal journey, with his other courtiers, but without that associate, who thought himself intitled to be every where the most distinguished favorite, and indispensable friend.

That the duke's wounded vanity was the main cause of his rebellion, seems to have been the opinion of the best informed among

¹⁰³ Buckingham's description to Morton, of his own feelings to Richard, during their journey to Gloucester is, 'I bore closely, and suffered patiently; and covertly remembered; outwardly dissimulating what I inwardly

thought. And so with a *painted countenance* I passed the last summer in his company; not without many fair promises, but without any good deeds.' Grafton, 816.

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among his contemporaries; for More mentions it at last, as their declared sentiment: "Very truth it is, that the duke was an high-minded man, and ill could bear the glory of another. So that I have heard of some, who said they saw it, that at such time as the crown was first set on the protector's head, the duke's eye could not abide the sight, but he wried his head another way¹⁰⁴."

The pride of his family, already noticed¹⁰⁵, increases the probability of this representation. And when human nature once gives way to the instigations of ambitious vanity and rapacious selfishness, no limits can be assigned to its perverted deviations. A spirit then takes the governance of the conduct, which has nothing in unison with either reason or rectitude.

The progress of Buckingham's mind, from discontent and envy, to aversion, hatred, conspiracy and rebellion, has been delineated by himself, in his conference with bishop Morton, while in his custody at Brecon¹⁰⁶.

Although the most hostile feelings had begun to rankle in his bosom¹⁰⁷, he left Richard at Gloucester, with apparent cheerfulness, and

¹⁰⁴ More, 254. At the Westminster coronation Buckingham held the royal train, but Stanley carried the mace of the lord high constable. Graft. 800, 1. The duke's may have been the most friendly position in the ceremony, but was not the most displaying. He had to expand his sovereign's splendid robe, and not to manage gracefully his own. They who remember, at His present Majesty's coronation, the effect of lord Castlereagh's appearance as the procession moved to the abbey; from his walking alone in an interval of its state: from his distinguishing movement of his superb hat and feathers, and the dignified ease and elaborate carefulness with which he so frequently paused, and looked around him on the admiring multitude, will feel what a superior advantage for such a personal exhibition, the duke would have had as constable, to what he was obliged to submit to, in his

quiet and confining duty of train bearer. The whole scene must have been a continuing mortification to his swelling vanity.

¹⁰⁵ See before, p. 405.

¹⁰⁶ As the bishop left his own account of this reign (see further, note 118,) and his dexterous management of Buckingham's mind, could not fail to be a conspicuous part of it, this conversation may be deemed peculiarly authentic.

¹⁰⁷ Buckingham's words are, 'How my heart inwardly grudged! insomuch that I so abhorred the sight, and much more the company of him, that I could no longer abide in his court, except I should be openly revenged, and so I fayned a cause to depart.' Graft. 816. He chose to connect these feelings with the death of the princes; but they were not only then alive, but no measures were taken for their destruction, till after the duke's departure.

and without exciting any suspicion of his displeasure; another indication that the king was surrounded with hypocrisy, which he was either too confiding to suspect, or too dull, with all his own imputed dissimulation, to penetrate¹⁰⁸.

In his way to Brecon, the duke began to consider how he could deprive Richard of his royal seat and princely dignity¹⁰⁹; and his first conception shows us, that every absurdity of arrogance and egotism, is credible of the haughty and irritable nobility of the fifteenth century. Blood or ancestry was, in their estimation, the summit of human merit: the patent of right to every honor and advantage, and the justification of every action to attain them. Buckingham's first idea was, to claim the crown himself¹¹⁰! The facility and frequency with which the English throne had been usurped since the accession of Richard II. had destroyed all that divinity, which our Shakspeare thought always hedged a king; and England's hereditary monarchy had been become as unstable as an elective one. The crown was attacked, on every fancied provocation, with as little remorse as a yeoman's freehold, an abbot's meadow, or a merchant's purse. In the increasing murmurs of the people, Buckingham says, "I saw my chance as perfectly as I saw my own image in a glass; and that there was no person could nor should have won the ring or got the goal before me; and on this point I rested, in imagination secretly with myself, two days at Tewkesbury¹¹¹."

His next deliberation was, how he should acquire it. To attempt to wrest it by force, as a conqueror, from Richard, would, he thought, set the nobility against him. But he remembered, that he had a claim of right to it; and he thought, this branch of his politic devise would bring forth fair flowers¹¹².

It

¹⁰⁸ So the duke said, 'with a merry countenance, and a despiteful heart, I took my leave humbly of him (at Gloucester). He thinking nothing less than that I was displeased, and so returned to Brecon.' Grafton, ib.

¹⁰⁹ Graft. ib.

¹¹⁰ 'First, I phantasied, that if I list to take upon me the crown and imperial sceptre of the realm, now was the time propice and convenient.' Ib.

¹¹¹ Graft. 816.

¹¹² lb.

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It happened, that the duke had three distant, but imperfect links to the English crown. He was descended by a maternal ancestor, from the duke of Gloucester, the youngest son of Edward III., who had suffered under Richard II. But the Lancastrian line preceded this. And with this, the same lady connected him, through whom he claimed the Hereford lands¹¹³; and became allied in blood to Henry IV. Yet the lineal right on which his heated fancy preferred to rest, was, that his mother was the heiress of the house of Somerset, which by Gaunt's third wife, asserted itself to be the next in succession to the crown¹¹⁴.

The delusions of vanity are at all times ludicrous mockeries. He says, "I thought sure, that I was next heir to Henry VI. This title pleased well such as I made privy of my council; but much more it encouraged my foolish desire and intent; insomuch that, clearly I judged, and in mine own mind, determinately resolved, that I was the undoubted heir of the house of Lancaster: and upon this concluded to make my first foundation, and erect my new building¹¹⁵."

What overturned this fantastic day dream? A casual meeting the next day, between Worcester and Bridgnorth, with the real heiress of the house of Somerset, from an elder branch to his own, in his cousin Margaret, the countess of Richmond, whom in his hasty vision of greatness, he had entirely forgotten. Her sudden appearance to his eye-sight, brought him to the recollection, that her son the earl of Richmond, preceded him in the line that connected him with the crown. Her conversation soon convinced him of this; and hearing him talk of deposing Richard, her maternal

¹¹³ His great grandfather, Edmund, had married Ann, the daughter of the duke of Gloucester, and through her mother, one of the coheirs of the earl of Hereford. 1 Dugd. Bar. 163. Richard's aversion to grant him the Hereford lands, was, from its apparently sanctioning a claim of affinity to Henry IV. and through that to the crown. Pol. Virg. 549. Henry the Fifth's mother was the

sister of Buckingham's female ancestor. Harl. MSS. 433. p. 108.

¹¹⁴ See before, p.

¹¹⁵ Graft. 817. The project of being king, descended into his son; for he was accustomed to say, that he would so manage the matter, that if Henry VIII. died without issue, he would attain the crown. Herb. Hen. VIII. p. 109.

maternal feeling induced her to urge him, if he moved at all, to make her Henry the sovereign instead : and to strengthen his title by allying him to one of Edward's daughters¹¹⁶. His own disappointment was too recent to listen favorably to this proposal. He passed over her suggestion, gave her fair words, and so departed. But in his lodging, he revolved what she had said ; and satisfied at last, that his project as to himself, was hopeless, he determined to seat her son on Richard's throne¹¹⁷. To such a casual meeting as this, was Henry VII. indebted for the first avenue, that led him to the English sceptre.

Reaching Brecon, with this new idea full in his resenting mind, a communication of sympathy and thought soon took place between him and his prisoner, the bishop of Ely. The prelate, a man of no common sagacity, soon glided into his confidence ; applauded his adoption of Richmond for their king, and his marriage with Elizabeth, the eldest daughter of Edward IV. ; and beginning to frame the means of accomplishing both designs¹¹⁸, asked him who should be first applied to, in such a perilous undertaking. The mother of Henry, was Buckingham's answer. " If you begin there," replied the sagacious bishop, " I have an old friend in her service, one Reginald Bray, in whose probity and judgment you may confide¹¹⁹." Bray was sent for to Brecon, and employed to persuade his mistress to arrange the projected marriage, with the queen and her daughter. Morton having so ably started his game, escaped against the duke's wishes to Ely ; that no change of

¹¹⁶ Graft. 818.

¹¹⁷ Ib.

¹¹⁸ Ib. 809—819. More's own narration ends abruptly with the beginning of this conversation ; but Grafton Hall and Holingshed continue it, with circumstances that could have come only from the bishop. His work, on Richard III, was in More's possession. The marginal note in Kennett's collection, v. 1. p. 546, says of it, ' This book was lately in the hands of Mr. Roper, of Eltham, as sir Edward Hoby, who saw it, told me.' It is

not now to be found ; but the old chroniclers appear to have transmitted to us its substance, and by so doing have contributed to its disappearance.

¹¹⁹ Grafton, 819. Bray had been steward to the duke's uncle, sir Henry Stafford, Margaret's second husband, and as such is mentioned in her will ; and was continued in the same office, by his widow, after her third marriage with lord Stanley. 2 Carte Hist. 812.

of purpose might compromise his safety, and thence passed into Flanders. The countess sent her physician, Dr. Lewis, to the queen at Westminster, who was admitted to her without suspicion, through the military fortifications, and by the Argus-eyed commander, from his professional and respected character. The queen promised, that all her friends should support Henry, if he would solemnly pledge himself to wed her daughter. Bray enlisted some distinguished persons in the same cause; and Urswick, a priest, with Mr. Conway, were dispatched to Richmond, with the interesting communications. The queen's friends, apprized of her wishes, promised a zealous support¹²⁰. Other persons went to Richmond, with invitations to land: and the 18th of October, was fixed as the day for his landing, for Buckingham's raising the standard of revolt against Richard; and for a general insurrection of all their friends, in the several counties of England, which were disposed to favor them.

Buckingham embarked in his new enterprize with a zeal and an activity, which, by coinciding with the excited sympathies for the young children, produced the most formidable effects. All those who had begun to stir, perceiving, that if they could not find a new captain for their party, that would be generally acceptable, they would all be ruined¹²¹, heard, with pleasure, of the selection and acquiescence of Richmond, whose name had also occurred to many. Each made correspondent preparations. Some put strong garrisons, with these feelings, in convenient fortresses. Some kept armed men privately, ready to move as soon as the earl should land. Others applied themselves to solicit the populace, and to urge them to insurrection; and some, by secret letters and disguised messengers, invited all whom they knew to have any grudge against the king, to unite with their designs¹²².

Richard was too vigilant, and too suspicious of all, not to obtain speedy information, that great designs were in agitation, flowing from

¹²⁰ Graft. 820—2. Pol. Virg. 549—551.

¹²¹ Croyl. 568.

¹²² Graft. 822.

from Buckingham, or connected with his name. Unable to understand a relation so strange, he wrote a kind invitation to the duke to visit him. An indisposition was the excusing answer. A peremptory summons roused Buckingham to reply, that he would not come to his mortal enemy, whom he neither loved nor favored¹²³. This language needed no comment; but was soon explained, by the information which now streamed upon the king, of the avowed preparations for revolt, which were every where making.

In consistency with his own determinate character, he wrote, on the 12th of October, to London for his great seal, that he might have the full official means of enforcing, with energy and rapidity, whatever measures he should deem adviseable. And in this letter, he tells his chancellor, that he intended briefly to advance against his rebel and traitor, the duke of Buckingham; and that all about himself was well, and truly determined to act against this unfaithful enemy¹²⁴.

He received the great seal on the 16th of October, at the angel inn, at Grantham, and kept it in his own custody; using it as he thought proper, until he re-delivered it to his chancellor at Westminster¹²⁵.

But whatever antipathy the queen's friends might have against Richard, they could not all persuade themselves to join a man who

¹²³ Graft. 823. Pol. Virg. 551. Hall. 393.

¹²⁴ This letter was addressed to his chancellor, the bishop of Lincoln, ordering his great seal to be sent to him. Underneath this, the king wrote, with his own hand, 'We wolde most gladly ye came yourself, yf that ye may: and yf ye may not, we pray you not to fayle, but to accomplyshe, in al dyllygence, our sayde commaundemente, to sende our seale incontinent upon the syght hereof, as we truste you, with such as ye truste, and the officers parteyning to attende with hyt; praying you to ascerteyn us of your news

ther. Here, loved be God, is al wel, and trewly determyned; and for to resiste the malyse of hym that had best cawse to be true, the duc of Buckingham, the most untrew creature lyvyng, whom, with God's grace, we shall not be long til that we wyll be in that parties, and subdue his malys. We assure you, there never was falser traitor purveyde for, as this berrer, Gloucestre, shall show you.' 1 Kennet. Hist. 532, note.

¹²⁵ On 26 November. Rymer, V. 12, p. 203.

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who had aided so cordially in all his violences but the last, as Buckingham had publicly done. Hence, though her son, the marquis Dorset, escaped out of sanctuary, and took arms¹²⁶; the son of sir Thomas Vaughan, that had been executed at Pomfret, assembled his relations and friends, and watched in Brecknockshire for the interests of Richard. Humphrey Stafford, a kinsman of the duke's also, partly broke down the bridge, and cut up the roads, by which Buckingham could march into England; and had the other passes guarded by steady soldiers¹²⁷. These were the effects of Richard's urgent commands. He never slept supine in any dangerous crisis. It was his temper, even to a fault, to act with immediate energy, and by the most forcible measures. He had all the marches of Wales, around the duke, so watched by trusty forces, that as soon as Buckingham should move from his castle, armed men should be ready to rush upon his possessions; and from the hope of sharing in their spoil, to obstruct his passage at every point. Hence, the Vaughans, on whom the duke looked from Brecon, in the interior of Wales, sprang out to patrol all the circumjacent country; and with the other coinciding forces, by the destruction of the bridges, and taking possession of the difficult passes, drove him to dangerous fords, and to difficult and untried ways. Richard also sent men of war into the channel, to watch vigilantly the harbours on both its coasts; and to prevent any from leaving England, or landing in it¹²⁸.

It was on the 24th of September that Buckingham had sent, from Brecon, his messengers to Richmond and Pembroke, in Bretagne, urging them to land in England, with the forces they could collect¹²⁹, and to make the 18th of October the time of the invasion; on which day, the duke promised to cause simultaneous insurrections in various counties. It is remarkable, that each of these two confederates exactly performed the allotted part.

¹²⁶ Graft. 823. Hall, 393.

¹²⁷ Croyl. 568.

¹²⁸ Croyl. 568. Graft. 825.

¹²⁹ Rolls Parl. 6, p. 245.

part. On the 18th of October, on which Richmond was to have sailed with his armament from Bretagne, Buckingham marched in open revolt from Brecon to Webly. By his excitation the marquis of Dorset rose in arms, at Exeter; and other friends at Newbury, Maidstone, and Salisbury; seconded by concurring insurgencies, on the 20th at Rochester, on the 22d at Gravesend, and on the 25th at Guilford¹³⁰. So that as far as decision, activity, and daring, could avail, there was no deficiency of either, in the duke and his associates. Richard, who on the 23d of October, had reached Leicester, issued thence a proclamation against them¹³¹. But the failure of this seemingly well-concerted and vigorously-commenced attempt, was so rapid, that on the next day a vice-constable of England was appointed to judge the rebels, without appeal, and whensoever he thought fit; but with the remarkable addition, to do it without noise or figure of judgment¹³². Nothing could more strongly mark Richard's determined character and insensibility to human bloodshed, and yet dread of the popular eye, than this requisition: immediate execution, without delay, mercy, supplication, hesitation, or appeal; but as secret as arbitrary: in order that nothing might escape, that could excite public criticism or touch the public sensibility.

The confederacy broke to pieces quickly, by the elements of nature contending against Buckingham. The duke, driven to bye roads and unguarded points, marched with his half-unwilling tenants through the forest of Dean towards Gloucester; meaning there to pass the Severn, and join the English insurrectionists. But a continual rain of ten days, had so swollen the river, that it was then overflowing the country, and neither he could pass to his confederated friends, nor they advance to join him. Compelled thus to be stationary, his Welsh followers, wearied and disappointed,

¹³⁰ Rolls Parl. 6, p. 245.

¹³¹ Rym. Fed. 12, p. 204.

¹³² Rym. Fed. 12, 205. 'Sine strepitu et figura judicii.'

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disappointed, gradually deserted him. Neither prayers nor threats could keep them firm or faithful. He was soon left with only his own household; and he fled in despair to the house of one Ralph Banaster, at Shrewsbury, on whose fidelity he thought he could rely; and where he meant to wait till the progress of his confederates gave a prospect of success; or till he could obtain an opportunity of escaping to Richmond, in Bretagne¹³³. By the unusual supply of provisions, superior to his host's ordinary fare, a concealed guest was suspected¹³⁴. The proclamation, promising a large pecuniary reward, pursued him¹³⁵; and, either tempted by this, or intimidated by his own danger, in sheltering a rebel, Banaster betrayed him to the sheriff of Shropshire. He was taken in a little grove near the house, dressed in a mean black cloak, and carried to Shrewsbury, where he was examined, and confessed all his plans; as if he had expected some favor for thus betraying those who had allied themselves to his honor. He was conveyed thence to Salisbury, which the king had reached with a competent army¹³⁶. The duke earnestly prayed for a personal interview with the king; and it has been thought an instance of his implacable nature, that Richard would not give the friend, who had so greatly served him, this last consolation. It was a mark of the king's judgment, or at this moment, of his good fortune, that he refused to see him; for it afterwards became known, that Buckingham requested the conference only that he might spring upon him, and stab him with a knife, which he had secretly prepared for that purpose¹³⁷. No circumstance is more expressive

¹³³ Graft. 824. Pol. V. 552. Hall, 394.

¹³⁴ Croyl. 568.

¹³⁵ The king offered 1,000*l.* or 100*l.* a year, on the caption of Buckingham; 1,000 marks for marquis Dorset; the same for the bishop; and 500 on the arrest of the others he named.

¹² Rymer, 204.

¹³⁶ Graft. 825. Croyl. 568. Hall, 394.

Richard, on the 21st of October, was at Melton Mowbray; on the 23d, at Leicester; on the 24th, at Coventry; and on the 2d of November, at Salisbury. Harl. MSS. 120, 121, 131. Bucke, 529.

¹³⁷ Grafton puts this as a possibility, 826. But the duke's son declared, that his father had made earnest suit to come into the presence

expressive of the duke's real character, than the deliberate meditation of this vindictive treachery. He was beheaded on the 2d of November, on a new scaffold in the market place of Salisbury¹³⁸. His treacherous dependant was rewarded¹³⁹; and his splendid possessions, dignities, and emoluments, which induced many, from the hope of sharing, to hear of his rebellion with pleasure¹⁴⁰, were seized by Richard's order, and some of them immediately distributed to the king's supporters¹⁴¹.

The earl of Richmond had performed his part with promptitude and intrepidity. He sailed on the 12th of October, with 5,000 Breton soldiers, in fifteen vessels; but a storm immediately afterwards scattered the fleet. He was driven alone to the Dorset coast, near Pool. Troops appearing there, he resolved not to land until his fleet came up; but sent out, while waiting for it, a boat to inquire if the men at arms, whom he saw, were friends or enemies. The deceitful answer was, that they were stationed by Buckingham to receive him. Their manner exciting suspicion, Henry weighed anchor¹⁴², and passed on to Plymouth.

Richard, perceiving that the main strength of the insurrections was in the western counties, marched his forces to Exeter. Intimidated by his approach, the bishop of Exeter, marquis Dorset, and

presence of Richard; and, if he had obtained his request, having a knife secretly about him, he would have thrust it into the body of king Richard, as he made semblance to kneel down before him. *Herb. Hen. VIII. p. 110.* The indictment against the son, which mentions this, charges him with having threatened to play the same part with Henry VIII. if he had been committed to the Tower. Such was the spirit of this family, and of the old nobility. The son perished by the axe, like his father.

¹³⁸ Graft. 826. Croyl. 568.

¹³⁹ The manor and lordship of Ealding, in Kent, 'late belonging to our great rebel and traitor, the duke of Buckingham,' were, on

the 13th of December, given to 'our well-beloved servant, Rauf Banastre, squire, for taking and bringing of our said rebel into our hands.' *Harl. MSS. p. 133.*

¹⁴⁰ Croyl. 568.

¹⁴¹ The castle of Kymbolton was, on the same day Buckingham fell, given to lord Stanley. *Harl. MSS. p. 120*; and sir James Tyrrell, and Morgan Kidwelly, the king's attorney, were sent down, to enter all the duke's castles in Wales, and in the marches, and to seize all his goods. *Harl. MSS. p. 121.* Similar commissions were issued for other counties. *p. 121—131.*

¹⁴² Graft. 826. *Pol. V. 553.* Hall, 395—7.

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and other nobles, who had begun a revolt, hastened to disperse. They who could find ships, sailed to Bretagne; others took refuge in sanctuaries; but one, sir Thomas St. Leger, whom Richard's sister, the duchess of Exeter, had chosen to marry, was taken. All intreaties, all offers of money, to save him, were in vain. Richard, resolved to impress terror by such an example, was inexorable; and he suffered¹⁴³. Some of those, who rose in rebellion at Guildford, were also executed; and several of his household¹⁴⁴. The pusillanimous confessions of Buckingham implicated many; and made Richard feel it to be necessary to deter future dissaffection, by present severity. Although in these punishments he did but what all governments enforce against deadly rebellion, yet they have occasioned him to be called cruel and tyrannous; and the dislike which they excited, lessened his future safety. It is difficult for an endangered government to be mild, though, perhaps, always politic. Mercy certainly attaches the heart, while fear alienates it; and Richard lived to find that nature tends to get rid of what she dreads.

While Richard paused at Exeter, Richmond, who still lingered in the Channel, anchored in the bay of Plymouth, to explore the state and movement of his friends. He there heard of Buckingham's failure and death¹⁴⁵. Sailing away, before he could be intercepted, he reached Vannes in safety, where he met Dorset, and others; and several noblemen, who rejoiced in his safety. They discussed their future measures; and on the ensuing Christmas-day, went, with great solemnity, to the chief church of the city, and pledged to each other their unshaken fidelity. Richmond took an oath to marry Elizabeth, immediately after he should acquire the English crown. They all did homage to him as their legal sovereign; and the prince applied to the duke of Bretagne, to enable

¹⁴³ Croyl. 569. The king was at Exeter on the 12th of November. Harl. MSS. 122.

¹⁴⁴ Graft. 828. Pol. V. 554.

¹⁴⁵ Croyl. 570.

enable him to land in England with a larger force; promising to re-pay him the expenditure. He received such favorable assurances, that he began to repair his vessels, and to provide the necessaries for an immediate descent¹⁴⁶.

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¹⁴⁶ Graft. 827. Pol. V. 554.

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1485.

HISTORY

OF

E N G L A N D.

C H A P. IV.

RICHARD'S EMBASSIES TO BRETAGNE. RICHMOND'S ESCAPE.
 RICHARD'S MENTAL AGITATIONS, AND REPENTANCE.
 PREPARATIONS TO REPEL INVASION. THE QUEEN'S
 DAUGHTERS AT HIS COURT. HIS SON'S DEATH. RICH-
 MOND'S OPERATIONS. DEATH OF QUEEN ANNE.

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THE eye of Richard was fixed on Bretagne, soon after his accession. His brother had been uneasy at the active and continually hostile Pembroke remaining there, with his nephew Richmond; and a restraint, as gently imposed as was consistent with security, watched and coerced them during Edward's life; who, before he died, had dispatched bishop Stillington to allure them into his power, or to procure them to be given up to him¹.

Richmond was not at first an object of much jealousy to Richard. The queen's relations were those whom he thought dangerous; and on the 13th of July, seven days after his coronation, he sent Dr. Hutton to Bretagne², to ascertain whether the duke countenanced sir Edward Woodville and his followers; and if any enterprize on England was intended³. But the plans of Buckingham to make Richmond king, and the actual sailing of the earl from

¹ Grafton, 737.

² Rym. Fed. 197.

³ See his Instructions, in Harl. MSS. N^o 433, p. 241.

from Bretagne to invade him, directed his mind intirely to that country ; and with his usual eagerness to forestall whatever danger threatened, he dispatched ambassadors to its duke, empowered to offer the most lavish bribes to obtain possession of the person of his new competitor⁴.

The Breton sovereign was too much weakened by a malady, that affected his mental faculties, to be applied to on this occasion. But the mission was communicated to his treasurer and chief minister, Peter Landois ; and this man, being at variance with the nobility of the province, and wanting both money and support, thought Richard's friendship of importance to his interest ; and was preparing to fulfil his wishes, when, by some treachery in the king's cabinet, the negotiations were communicated to Morton in Flanders, " by his secret and sure friends." Urswick, the priest, who had managed the former treaty between the countess Margaret, her son and Buckingham, was hurried off to apprise Richmond of his danger ; and to urge him to withdraw immediately into a French province. With that correctness, and sedate celerity of judgment, which was one of Richmond's endowments, he directed the priest to depart instantly, to intreat permission of the French king, to reside in his dominions ; and mentioning to no one his intentions, sent his noble friends to pay a visit of inquiry after the duke's health, with a private hint to Pembroke to turn off from the road, to a town beyond the borders of Bretagne. Then mounting his horse, with five servants, as if to make a morning visit to an old friend in an adjoining village, he rode carelessly out of Vannes, mistrusted by no one. At five miles distance, he declined suddenly into a solitary wood that was near ; put on the simple coat of a poor servant, whom he made the leader of his company ; and followed as an humble page, riding as fast as it was prudent, and stopping no where but to bait their horses⁵.

Richmond's
danger.

He was not missed till the fourth day after his departure ;
when

⁴ Graft. 831, 2. Pol. Virg. 555.

⁵ Ib.

when Landois, sending a band of soldiers, under a pretext of honoring him, but for the purpose of securing and of delivering him to Richard, discovered that he was gone. Couriers immediately hurried to every port, and horsemen to every road; and such was the rapidity of their pursuit, and the exactness of their scent, that they arrived at the frontier within an hour after Richmond had passed it. Having been obliged to take unknown ways for secrecy, and having turned often into contrary directions, to mislead his expected pursuers, he had only preceded them by that short interval. They durst not commit violence within the territory of France; and the earl got to Angiers, where Pembroke met, and exchanged the mutual congratulation⁶.

The reflecting mind may ask, Was Richard happy on one of the noblest of the European thrones? The wondrous moral arrangements of our social world; and the corresponding organization of our material frame, forbid this expected result⁷. He was not villain enough to be so. He came from a gentler stock; and had a nobler mind, and had learnt a more cultivated sensibility. He had yielded to the alarm, the tempting policy, and the seducing sophistry of a vain-glorious and endangered hour; and he destroyed his innocent nephews: but their fate lessened none of the perils which environed him, and his reason began to regret its precipitation. He could not but remember what he had done. He felt its condemnation in his own secret heart. He read it in the countenances of many. He suspected it amid the compliments of all. He heard it, with unsparing severity, from the reproaches of his adversaries. Hence, we may fully credit the probable account of sir Thomas More:—The rest of his brief life, he “spent in much pain

⁶ Pol. Virg. 555. Hall, 402—4.

⁷ I remember two trials for murder, in which one culprit, who had killed his master in Clifford's Inn, declared, that while he was taking the body out, to throw it down the common sewer, all the buildings seemed to burst into flames as he passed them; and

another, who had destroyed his mother, never looked on a clock, at the hour he had done the crime, but he thought her face was in it, glaring upon him. There is a greater connection between murder and remorse, than any other crime has exhibited.

pain and trouble outward; in much fear and anguish within. For I have heard, by credible report, with such as were secret with his chamberers, that after this abominable deed done, he never had quiet in his mind; he never thought himself sure. Where he went abroad, his eyes whirled about; his body was privily fenced; his hand was ever on his dagger; his countenance and manner like one always ready to strike again. He took ill rest at nights; and lay long, waking and musing. Sore wearied with care and watch, he rather slumbered than slept. Troubled with fearful dreams, sometimes he suddenly startled up, leapt out of his bed, and ran about the chamber. So was his restless heart continually tossed and tumbled, with the tedious impression and stormy remembrance of his abominable deed⁸."

These perturbations seem to have agitated his mind while he was at Exeter. On his arrival in that city, the corporation presented him with a purse of 200 nobles. He received it graciously. Going out to survey the place, when he came to the castle, on hearing its name, some melancholy feelings, mingled with superstitious fancies, came over him. The castle was called Rougemont; and as it was pronounced, it brought to his recollection an idle prediction which had reached him, that he would be near his end whenever he came to Richmond. He allowed himself to be so shaken by the verbal similarity, as to exclaim, "I see my days will not be long⁹." His spirits must have been greatly depressed, to

⁸ More, p. 251. Richard is an instance of the existence and agency of that interior monitor, of which Juvenal so justly says,

'Cur tamen hos tu
Evasisse putes, quos, diri consciafacti,
Mens habet attonitos, et surdo verberare cædit,
Occultum quatiente animo tortore flagellum.'

Sal. 13, v. 192—6.

'But why must those be thought to 'scape,
who feel
Those rods of scorpions, and those whips of
steel,

Which conscience shakes, when she with
rage controls,
And spreads alarming terror thro' their souls.'
Dryd.

⁹ In those days, when astrology was so much in vogue, predictions of individual destiny abounded. Edward IV. was frequently troubled by the ominous prophecies of one Hogan. 2 Fenn. 138, and v. 5. On an official record, a man is styled 'a nigromancer,' as his profession. 'Thomas Vandyke, late of Cambridge, nigromancer.' Rolls Parl. 6, p. 273.

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to have been thus agitated by a simple sound. But from the visible indisposition of the gentry of Devon, he perceived that he had turned the hearts of the respectable classes against him. This may have dismayed him at this juncture; and it became his fortune to learn, that pomp and power, without attachment, are but shifting dreams of parade and alarm. Few miseries exceed those of an unpopular throne.

Having dispersed his enemies, he dismissed with great rewards, his northern friends; and gradually disbanding his army, returned to London, in December¹⁰, and was received with cheering acclamations.

His repentance.

At this period, he was externally surrounded with all that constitutes human glory. The wondering populace thought him fully blessed¹¹. Comines remarks, that he was reigning in greater splendor and authority, than any king of England for the last hundred years¹²; and he celebrated the Christmas festivity with profuse magnificence. Yet still the unseen worm of care tormented him. His busy spies brought him censorious remarks, from those whom he dared not punish; and his spirit sank into sorrow and solicitude. He found his name becoming used as a taunt of disgrace by many¹³. The unfavorable incidents of nature or life, were imputed to him as the maledictions of heaven upon his reign; and he foresaw, that his memory would be branded with infamy, for an action which he could neither obliterate nor recall. He repented of his criminal policy; and resolved to appease his internal anguish and to restore his blemished character, by changing all that was wrong in his conduct, and by leading the life of a good

¹⁰ Croyl. 570. He was at Winchester on the 26th of November; (Harl. MSS. p. 127.) and reached London by the 1st of December, on which day he signed there a grant to the earl of Northumberland (who betrayed him), of the great estate of lord Powneys, who had fled to Richmond. Ib. p. 124.

¹¹ Vulgi admiratione beatus dicebatur. Pol. Virg. 548.

¹² Comin. 1, p. 514.

¹³ On the 11th of April 1484, he wrote to the magistrates of York, complaining of 'the number of lies and contumelious speeches, which were then spread abroad against him.' Drake's Ebor. p. 119.

a good man and of a deserving king. He strove to be just, mild, popular, and generous, especially in his charities to the needy; and he endeavored to reconcile himself to God and man. He began many useful public works. He founded at York, a college for one hundred priests, which was then deemed one of the highest acts of human piety; and he listened with attention to the wise councils of his friends. But the historian who records this change, expresses his belief, that fear, not probity, thus improved him; and intimates, that it neither lasted, nor averted the calamities that were doomed to fall upon him¹⁴.

The violent seizure of the crown, and the destruction of Rivers, Hastings, and Buckingham, had not removed the difficulties by which Richard, from the first, had been surrounded. The leaders were gone, but the parties and the party-interests remained. His elevation combined them against him, but did not annihilate them. Hence, he still found himself on a tempestuous sea, which violence irritated, but could not calm. Yet, whatever policy could devise, he was active to execute. A fleet was ordered out under sir Thomas Wentworth, to watch the movement from Bretagne¹⁵; and in January, a parliament assembled, which passed an act recapitulating his title and the former petition, and settling the crown upon himself, and his issue¹⁶; and a subsidy was granted for

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against in-
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¹⁴ We owe this account to Polydore Virgil. p. 548. The warrant for establishing the priests, is in the Harl. MSS. N° 433, p. 72.

¹⁵ See the commissions of the 18th and 20th of December 1483, in Harl. MS. p. 135. The cinque ports were also authorized to man out small ships to meet the Breton fleets. Ib. MS.

¹⁶ Parl. Rolls, v. 6, p. 240. The bishop of Lincoln, as chancellor, opened this parliament with a speech, which, by its abstract on the rolls, appears to me to be the same which is preserved in the MSS. in the British Museum, Vitell. E. 10, p. 171; and in another copy, with some variations, in 139. It was

spoken before Richard. 'The head is our sovereign lord the king, *here present*.' Its great object is, to exhort the peers to unity and peace. 'Lords and noblemen! ye that have great substance to lose or save; in whose sure and concord demeaning rests the weal of all the commons: open your eyes! send out your faithful ears, and hear true and unfeigned reports.' After reminding them of the many noble persons who had perished, from bad counsel, he adds, 'The most proper means to keep the great estates of the public body in their wealth and prosperity, is, for every one to hearken to others; so that, neither for supplantation, dissimulation, nor envy, the due proportion and harmony of this

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for safe keeping of the sea. In the same month, he issued commissions to all parts of the country, that all persons between sixteen and sixty, should take an oath of allegiance to him¹⁷. He had gunpowder and ammunition prepared¹⁸; He purchased Spanish ships to add to his navy in the Channel¹⁹; and extended its activity to resist French and Scots, as well as Bretons²⁰. He bought and collected new artillery²¹; and vigorous directions were afterwards given

this body be disturbed. By concord, as Sallust saith, small things grow to great; by discord, full great things fall to ruin and desolation: the cause why lords and noblemen ought to be more persuaded to accord, and each amicably to hearken.

'Wherefore it is not to doubt, but that the rule and governale of the realm appeareth then in most temperance and moderation, when the king's commissioners be obeyed at large, in every part of the land; so that his highness, and his noble council, be not letted where the king listeth best to be, to intend the politic establishing of the realm.

'Give, then, your attendance, ye people that stand far off, to the lords and noblemen which be in authority. They come from the well-head.

'I speak not to you, that now represent the whole, but to them that ye come from, whom, for their great and confused number and multitude, nature cannot well suffice to assemble in a place apt to the making of a law.'

He reminds them of the fable of the belly and its members; and asks, 'What is the belly, but the great public body of England? If, then, ye be single, and not turned to doubleness, all the body shall be fair and bright. And if the contrary; if, then ye be wicked, the body shall be dark.' Another passage shows the anxiety of Richard, and his desire of intimidating others by Buckingham's fall. 'This womb of busy thought, care, and pensiveness, is waxed full great in the days that we be in, not only by the sudden departing of our old new-reconciled enemies from such treaties, oaths, and promises, as they made to this land; but also by marvel-

lous abusions within, of such as ought to have remained the king's true and faithful subjects. It is too heavy to think and see what care and dangers by some one person, lately a right and great member of this body, many other noble members of the same, have been brought to. The example of his fall, and righteous punishment, should not be forgotten. Whoso taketh upon him, being a member under the head, with that to which his office and fidelity appertaineth not; setting the people into rebellion or commotion against the prince, be never so great or noble in his estate, he is as it were, a rotten member of the body.' MSS. Vit. E. 10. p. 141.

¹⁷ Harl. MSS. p. 141, 2. See the oath from one of the peers. Ib. p. 3.

¹⁸ There is an order to take 'all manner of stuff that shall be necessary, to enable John Bramburgh, a stranger, to make for us, certain great stuff of gunpowder,' dated 28 Jan. in Harl. MSS. p. 145.

¹⁹ Ib. MSS. 146.

²⁰ Harl. MSS. p. 151.

²¹ There is a warrant to pay 24*l.* for buying 20 new guns, and 2 serpentines; and an order to the constable of the Tower, to deliver out 8 serpentynes upon carts; 28 hacbusses, with their frames; 1 barrel of touch-powder; 2 barrels of serpentyne powder; 200 bows; 400 sheafs of arrows; 10 gross of bow-strings; and 200 bills. Harl. MSS. p. 163 and 157. Another order commanded the delivery of 2 serpentynes; 2 guns to lie on walls; 12 hacbusses; 10 cross-bows of steel; 60 long bows; 100 sheafs of arrows, and 2 barrels of gunpowder. Ib. p. 178.

given to press soldiers, mariners, artificers, laborers, horses, waggons, and other things necessary for the king's use²². The earl of Richmond was attainted²³, and also his mother the countess; though with some delicacies towards her husband, lord Stanley²⁴. The author of a contemporary pasquinade was executed²⁵. An unfavorably predicting astronomer was sent to the Tower²⁶; and such numerous proscriptions were made of other opposing men of rank and fortune, who would not submit to his government; that the monastic chronicler, the most impartial of those who mention him, compares them to the severities of the Roman triumvirate²⁷. He distributed the rich forfeitures, which resulted from these attainders and condemnations, among his northern adherents, on whom he placed, perhaps, too manifestly, his greatest reliance; and he planted these supporters in every part of his dominions, to the continual annoyance and discontent of the people, among whom they resided. The presence, insults, and tyranny of these intruded masters, too sensible of their own importance, not to presume

²² Harl. MSS. p. 168, 178, 183, 195. The first commission, an early specimen of pressing, is to 'take mariners in the king's name, for the furnishing the ships, called the Andrew; the Michael; the Bastion; and the Tyre; to do service of war upon the sea, in the north part.'

²³ Parl. Rolls, 6. p. 244—6. Hall, 397.

²⁴ She was disabled from inheriting any lands or tenements; and all her castles, manors and lands were declared forfeited to the crown; but a life-interest in them, was given to lord Stanley, with the reversion to the king. *Ib.* 250, 1; and see Hall, 398.

²⁵ See before p. 494. This Collingbourne, who is stated to have committed other treasons, had held some office in Wiltshire, important enough for a lord to hold after him. See Harl. MSS. N° 433. p. 2.

²⁶ This was Lewis Kaerlion, on 16 March 1484. In his table of the eclipses of the sun and moon, he thus records the fact: 'Having lost the tables of those which I had made, by

the pillage of king Richard, I being imprisoned in the Tower of London, prepared other tables of eclipses, &c. which differ in a few things from those composed by me in 1482.' Tanner Bib. Mon. p. 449.

²⁷ Croyland, 570. The king was not in the metropolis from the 6th of March 1484, to August 9th; on March the 11th, he was at Cambridge; from the 20th of March to the 25th of April, at Nottingham; on May the 1st, at York; on the 6th, at Middleham; on the 15th, at Durham; on the 22d, at Scarborough; on the 27th, at York; from the 30th to the 13th of June, at Pomfret; from the 14th to the 25th of June, at York; from the 30th, to the 11th of July, at Scarborough; on the 20th and 21st, again at York; on the 23d, at Pomfret; on the 30th, at Nottingham; and on August the 9th and 10th, at Westminster; but the rest of the summer and autumn, he passed at Nottingham, with a short excursion to Tutbury; and on November the 12th, returned to Westminster. Harl. MSS. 165, 195.

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presume on impunity, increased the public desire for the return of their former and now exiled lords²⁸. Thus the measures, which the king adopted for his security, turned, from the averting mind which they created, to his bane. Augmented dissatisfaction increased his jealousy and sternness; and every punishment he inflicted, however merited by actual treason, raised the clamor of tyranny against him. It was thought, that he became extreme to mark what was done amiss. He may have been so, without intending it. Power in the hands of the irritable and the unquiet, is apt to be cruel, especially when goaded by danger; and Richard is loudly charged with being so. But the candid will observe, that it was towards those who revolted against him, that he is accused of displaying this temper. They chose to make it a battle of life or death with him; and he fought it as such. No benefits or overtures could allay their resentments; and as they were implacable, so he was unforgiving²⁹.

The queen's
daughter at
his court.

The project of uniting Richmond with one of the queen's daughters, he attempted by an altered behavior to her to defeat. Whether he pitied her for the incurable wound he had inflicted, or obeyed merely the dictates of an interested policy; he endeavored to win her confidence, by his favors and kindnesses. He sent various friends to her, to conciliate her confidence. They performed their difficult task with zeal; and they persuaded her to forget all her wrongs, and to intrust her five daughters to the care

²⁸ Croyl. 570.

²⁹ Thus he attainted sir George Brown, sir Thomas Lewkner, sir John Gildford, and sir John Fogg; 13 esquires; 4 gentlemen, and other persons; but it was because they assembled a great multitude, arrayed in war, against him. So he attainted sir William Berkeley, sir Roger Tocot, Lord Sentmort, sir Richard Woodville, two other knights, 100 esquires, and others; but they had assembled in arms against him, at Newbury, in Berks. He also attainted sir John Cheney, and 3 other knights; several esquires, gen-

tleman, and yeomen; but they had made a military insurrection at Salisbury; as sir Robert Willoughby, sir Thomas Arundel six esquires, and several gentlemen, with marquis Dorset, and sir Thomas St. Leger had done at Exeter. As all these were declared traitors, their lands and goods were confiscated; and an act was passed, enabling him to grant their lands to others. Parl. Rolls, 6, p. 246. 9. All these voluntarily dared the deadly chance, and aimed at his life and crown.

care of him and his queen, to form a part of his court, and to be educated under his care. The dowager queen has been violently censured for this acquiescence. It was certainly breaking her engagements with Richmond's friends; but at this moment his cause seemed hopeless; and she may have thought, that she had only to chuse between immuring five young ladies, the eldest but seventeen, for life in a sanctuary; or permitting them to receive that princely education, which her maternal affection desired. As no friend has explained her motives, she has found no advocate: but has been held up as an instance of female versatility and weakness. Her conduct may be so considered; but it is also possible, that the intreaties, as well as the benefit of her own children, may have persuaded her to a reconciliation with the king. Whoever has to decide and act, amid contradicting feelings and duties, must seem to act objectionably, whichever course may be adopted.

Richard, before the peers of the realm and the city magistrates, bound himself by a solemn oath, to protect, maintain, advance, and marry them³⁰; and they had no reason to be dissatisfied with exchanging a cloister for a palace. The king and queen conveyed them to their court, with studied honors; and by familiar and affectionate entertainments, strove to make them forget all former evil³¹. The most criminal intentions in Richard, have been ascribed

³⁰ The Harleian MS. has preserved this oath. 'I, Richard, king of England, &c. in the presence of you, my lords spiritual and temporal, and you, mayor and aldermen of my city of London, promise and swear (verbo regio) upon these Holy Evangelists of God, by me personally touched, that if the daughters of dame Elizabeth Gray, late calling herself queen of England; to wit, Elizabeth, Cecill, Anne, Katteryn, and Brugget, will come unto me out of the sanctuary of Westminster, and be mynded, ruled, and demeaned after me, then I shall see that they shall be in surety of their lives; and also not suffer any manner of hurt, by any manner, person or persons to them or any of them, in

their bodies or persons, to be done by way of ravishing or defiling contrary to their wills; nor them, nor any of them, imprison within the Tower of London, or other prison.

'But that I shall put them in honest place of good name and fame, and them honestly and courteously shall see to be found and entreated: and to have all things requisite and necessary for their exhibition and finding, as my kinswomen.

'And that I shall do marry such of them as now ben marriable to gentilmen born, and everich of them give in marriage, lands and tenements to the yearly value of 200 marcs for the term of their lives.' MS. p. 308.

³¹ Grafton, 836. Hall, 407.

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His son's
death.

ascribed to this measure; and yet the kindest uncle could not have acted otherwise. There was, indeed, an unworthy jealousy of power, in not calling them princesses in his oath, and in the idea of marrying them as private gentlewomen merely; but a regard for national tranquillity, and still more, for the safety of his son's future succession, probably dictated this conduct, which may have been most favorable to their happiness, and to the country's welfare. Richard prevailed on their royal mother to solicit her son Dorset, to concur in the family conciliation.

While Richard was thus exerting himself to suppress and disappoint internal conspiracy, and to prevent invasion, he was destined to receive the first great retributive blow from the unseen direction of events, in the loss of his only son. After adding the princesses to his household, he assembled the principal persons of his kingdom, in February 1484, and caused them to swear adherence and fidelity to his son, Edward prince of Wales⁵². Within two months after he had thus secured, as he supposed, the succession to his own line, this prince was attacked with a rapid illness at Middleham castle, which soon ended in his death. Richard and his queen received the tidings, at Nottingham; and were both nearly distracted with the intelligence⁵³. His unsparing ambition was thus frustrated in its fondest hope. His parental feelings were pure and kind; and his sufferings were proportionately acute.

But the growing dangers of his situation roused him from his grief. He discovered, that Morton and the exiled nobility were not only in alliance with Richmond, but were in active correspondence with the chief persons in England. He spread every where his inquiring spies, both at home and abroad. He adopted an invention of Edward IV. of stationing horsemen on the roads,

at

⁵² Croyl. 570.⁵³ 'Pene insanire,' Croyl. 571. The prince died 9th April 1484. By the grants in the Harl. MS. the king appears to have been

at Nottingham, from 20th March to 25th April in this year. On 1st May he went to York, and on the 6th to Middleham, where his child had expired. MS. ib. 166—173.

at every twenty miles, who should transmit to each other the letters that were to be forwarded; by which plan all news travelled 200 miles in two days³⁴. His navy was alert: successful against the Scots; but suffering some losses from the French³⁵.

On arriving at Angiers, the earl of Richmond found the French king's permission to reside in France; and went in person to Charles, at Langes on the Loire, to explain the reason of his sudden escape, and to solicit his aid against Richard. Charles VIII. received him kindly, and took him to Montargis, with his friends, and afterwards to Paris, which then became the resort of all those who chose to embark in his meditated enterprize. His flight from Vannes had stopped all his preparations from Bretagne. The duke, recovering his recollection, disapproved of what his minister had done; and assisted the gentlemen who had been left behind, with money, to join their prince³⁶. But he gave no further countenance to Henry; and concluded a truce with Richard's envoys³⁷, which was afterwards prolonged³⁸, and converted into such a friendly alliance, that Richard sent 1,000 archers to assist him against France³⁹. Charles VIII. flattered Richmond with promises of succors, but delayed providing them. Yet his countenance gave new courage to the exiled revoltors, and induced others to join their party. Among these were sir James Blunt, the governor of Hammes, and sir John Fortescue, one of the officers of Calais. Blunt

Richmond's
operations.

³⁴ Croyl. 571.

³⁵ Croyl. 571. He bought ships from Spain, in January, to make war on Bretagne; and in February ordered fleets to be victualled against France, Bretagne, and Scotland. Harl. MS. 146—151. In March he issued fresh warrants to impress mariners, *ib.* 168. which, in June, were sent to all mayors, &c. p. 180. The French took some of his ships off Scarborough, with two 'ferocissimis capitaneis.' *ib.* one of them the person who had commanded the fortifications at Westminster Abbey; John Nessfield.

³⁶ Graft. 834. Pol. V. 556. Hall. 405.

³⁷ 12 Rym. 226. The first truce was from July 1484 to 24 April 1485.

³⁸ 12 Rym. 255. The Harl. MS. has a license for Thomas Hoton, to go with twelve persons to Bretagne, on the King's message, dated 23 October 1484. p. 192.

³⁹ The commission to John Gray, to command there, was dated 28 June 1484. 12 Rym. Fed. 226, 7. On 7 March following, the truce was prolonged to Michaelmas 1492. *ib.* 261.

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Blunt released his prisoner, the earl of Oxford, who immediately went to Richmond. No circumstance more pleased or benefited Henry, than the presence of this nobleman. He was the highest rank that had yet openly allied with him. His reputation was great and unsullied. His abilities and experience in war, were important to the wise direction of his intended expedition. Above all, he found him to be one in whom, above all others, he might securely place his most secret trust⁴⁰. Thus supported, the day of his good fortune began to dawn with a serene brightness, that gradually made the ardor of his hope the just confidence of reason.

Richard, finding his intercepting plans defeated by his rival's flight into France, endeavored to make the present solicitations to Charles, the evidence of an anti-national spirit. He published a proclamation against Richmond and his adherents, charging his grand-father, Owen Tudor, with illegitimacy; and accusing him of having covenanted with the king of France, to abandon all claims of England to Normandy, Anjou, Maine, Gascony, Guienne, Calais, Guynes, and the Marches; and arraigning him for giving away already archbishoprics, bishoprics, and other clerical dignities, and also dukedoms, earldoms, and baronies⁴¹. Richmond, with great spirit, retorted by an energetic letter to all his friends and allies; in which he announced his intention of dethroning the king, whom he calls an homicide, and unnatural tyrant⁴².

Increasing

⁴⁰ Graft. 834. Hall, 405.

⁴¹ Fenn has printed this proclamation, V. 2. p. 321, 3. It is dated 23 June 1484.

⁴² It was this.—'H. R.—Right trusty, worshipful, and honorable good friends, and our allies;

'I greet ye well. Being given to understand your good devours, and intent to advance me to the furtherance of my rightful claim due, and lineal inheritance of the crown, and for the just depriving of that homicide and unnatural tyrant, which now unjustly bears dominion over you, I give you to

understand, that no christian heart can be more full of joy and gladness than the heart of me, your poor exiled friend; who will, upon the instance of your sune advertizing what power you will make ready, and what captains and leaders you get to conduct, be prepared to pass over the sea, with such force as my friends here are preparing for me; and if I have such good speed and success as I wish, according to your desire, I shall ever be most forward to remember, and wholly to requite this great and most loving-kindness in my just quarrel.

'H. R.'

'I pray

Increasing resentment was now extinguishing all the former parties that had shaken the country, and dividing it into two new ones, the opposers, and the supporters, of the king; and Richmond becoming identified with the former, the future struggles assumed a personal character; and the only question that was fought for at last, was, whether Richard or Henry should be seated on the English throne. Every month additional numbers of the nobility and gentry showed their desire to place a new dynasty upon it.

To secure his northern frontier from the incursions of Scotland, that he might have his forces undivided to act against Richmond, the king opened a negotiation with the Scottish monarch; and proposed a marriage between that king's son and his own niece. James was in need of friends, as well as himself, and sent his ambassadors to Nottingham. The prelate of the north made the flattering speech to Richard, already noticed⁴³; and a treaty of friendship and alliance having ensured safety to the border provinces⁴⁴, the king returned to the metropolis in November⁴⁵, which, excepting a short time in August, he had not visited since the preceding winter⁴⁶. In the next month, he sent his mandate to the mayor of Windsor, complaining, that his rebels and traitors were confederated with his antient enemies of France; and were sending over writings with false inventions, tidings, and rumors, to provoke discord and division between him and his lords; and commanding him to inquire after the utterers of such papers; to commit them to sure ward, and to proceed to their sharp punishment as an example to deter others⁴⁷. Some days afterwards, he ordered

'I pray you to give credence to the messenger, of what he shall impart to you.' Harl. MS. N^o 787.

This has been printed by Mr. J. Nicholls in his additions to Hutton's Bosworth Field, p. 190.

⁴³ See before, p. 478. Bucke has inserted it in his history. 1 Kennet, p. 572. The Scotch commission to treat on the marriage

is dated 30 August, at Edinburgh. 12 Rym. 232.

⁴⁴ Graft. 830, See the articles agreed on, in Hall, 398—400.

⁴⁵ Croyl. 571.

⁴⁶ See before, note 27.

⁴⁷ It is dated 6 Dec. 1484. Harl. MSS. N^o 787, p. 2; and Nicholl's Hutton, p. 191.

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ordered the commissioners he had sent into the counties near the metropolis, to call before them, in all haste, the knights, squires, and gentlemen; to understand from them what number of men, defensibly arrayed, they could bring together, on half-a-day's notice, in case of any sudden arrival of his enemies⁴⁸. Thus no precaution, which enlightened prudence could suggest, was omitted by this active-minded king.

He kept his Christmas at Westminster, with his accustomed display of state; and appeared on the Epiphany with the crown on his head at a royal banquet; but it was remarked, that the princess Elizabeth was dressed in splendid robes of the same form and color with his queen's; and inferences began to be made, that he meditated his consort's death or divorce⁴⁹. What he had done, created the worst opinions of what he meant to do. Selfish ambition, without either moral or religious principle, being believed to be the guide of his conduct, no crime seemed unlikely, no imputation unjust.

In the midst of his splendid entertainment, tidings were suddenly brought to him, that Richmond would certainly invade him in the following summer. His natural intrepidity and love of decision, occasioned him to receive the news with delight⁵⁰, that the deciding battle might speedily occur: so little can we penetrate the mysterious future.

Death of
queen Anne.

As his last winter passed on, his queen Anne became unwell. He is admitted to have been at this time acting the part of a good and well-disposed king⁵¹; and to have been afraid least her sudden death should lessen the creditable opinion that was forming of him. Yet he is charged with proceeding to kill her, by abstaining from her society; by complaining to his nobles, and especially to archbishop Rotheram, of her sterility: and by spreading

⁴⁸ Harl. MSS. N° 433, p. 198. This letter was dated 18 December, and sent to Surrey, Middlesex, Hertford, &c.

⁴⁹ Croyl. 571.

⁵⁰ Ib.

⁵¹ Or, as the hostile chroniclers express it, he had begun 'to counterfeit the ymage of a good and well-disposed person.' Graft. 836. Hall, 407.

spreading a rumor, meant to reach her ears, that she was actually dead⁵². This mode of killing her is not very probable; and is refuted by the inconsistent addition, that when she went sorrowingly to him, to ask why she was to die, he answered her with fair words, and dissembling blandishments; kissed her, and comforted her, and bid her be of good cheer⁵³. This soothing kindness was the true behavior of an affectionate husband; and was the reverse of that which he would have exhibited, if he had meant to injure her by his asserted alienation. The two parts of the story do not coincide; and therefore, when these writers offer us the consequential alternative, that "either from grief, or poison, she died in a few days⁵⁴," we may be allowed to decline the proposed dilemma altogether; and to suppose that nature or providence had withdrawn her, like her son, into the grave, and with no friendly hand to Richard; for as her death ensured the public belief, that it was either another penal judgment, or another murder, no event could be more calamitous to him than to lose her, with the certainty of such destroying imputations.

There is a correctness in all the accounts of the Croyland doctor, when they can be compared with the records, and other manuscript authorities⁵⁵, that induces us to take his representation as the unprejudiced truth. He remarks, that "the similarity of the dresses of queen Anne and Elizabeth, in the Christmas festivities, created great surprise; and that it was said by many, that the king, either expecting the queen's death, or meditating a divorce, for which he thought he had sufficient reasons, was applying his mind to a marriage with the princess." He adds, that it did not seem to Richard, that his kingdom would be confirmed

⁵² Hall, 407.

⁵³ Ib. 'Osculando,' adds Pol. Virg. 557.

⁵⁴ Ib.

⁵⁵ He ends his valuable history by saying, that he finished it on 30 April 1486. p. 578. He did not continue it further, because that

would concern the actions of living persons, and would expose the historian either to hatred, if he described their vices, or to the crime of flattery, if he blazoned their virtues. Ib. 577. I understand him to say, that he wrote his little work, in ten days. 578.

confirmed to him, or the hope of his competitor taken away, by any other measure⁵⁶.

He proceeds, "A few days after this, the queen began to be exceedingly ill. Her sickness was thought to increase more rapidly, because he entirely abstained from her connubial society; and thus, as he was advised by the physicians, he judged he ought to do⁵⁷. Why should I add more? About the middle of the following March, on the day of the great eclipse of the sun, which then occurred, queen Anne died; and was buried at Westminster, with no less honor than became a queen⁵⁸."

Here is no charge of poison or cruelty; nor can an illness, beginning a few days after twelfth day, and lasting till the middle of March, above two months, be fairly attributable to poison, unless no one becomes ill in winter without it. His secession from her is not ascribed to wicked design, but to medical advice. His projecting an union with another lady, before her death, though an act neither decorous nor consistent with true affection, nor morally vindicable from the consequences to which it may lead, is an action which has been done, and a subsequent marriage completed, shortly after the wife's death, in violation of the feelings, which society rightly chuses to exact and to make sacred, by many persons of great general respectability, without their being deemed murderers or tyrants. But Richard has not been allowed to do any thing in common with the rest of mankind, without the ascription of some horrible motive. His mind has been supposed to have been in an universal and continual moral leprosy.

But

⁵⁶ Croyl. 572. The instances of Henry VIII., Napoleon, and other sovereigns, divorcing their wives, because they wished an heir to their thrones, prove, that Richard might have had that desire, although improper, without being a flagitious character. That there was some informality about his marriage, which made a divorce attainable, is probable, because the act of parliament that settled her inheritance, in 1474, contemplated

a divorce as a possible occurrence. See before, p. 379.

⁵⁷ So I construe the doctor's awkward latin sentence, 'Itaque a medicis sibi consultum, ut faceret, judicavit.' p. 572. If my construction be right, his avoidance of her society was in obedience to the injunction of her medical attendants.

⁵⁸ Croyl. 572. It is elsewhere stated, that she died 11 March 1485.

But another person has been implicated in this event, to her disadvantage. Bucke declares, that there was an autograph letter from the princess Elizabeth to the duke of Norfolk, in the cabinet of Thomas earl of Arundel and Surrey, in which she tells his grace, that he was the man in whom she affied, in respect of that love her father had ever bore him. After congratulating, as Bucke terms it, his many courtesies, she desires him, in continuation of them, to be a mediator for her to the king, in behalf of the marriage propounded between them. She adds, that he, the king, was her only joy and maker in this world, and that she was his in heart and thought; and she insinuates, that the better part of February was past, and that she feared the queen would never die⁵⁹.

As it would be absurd to reason against a genuine autograph, it need only be added, that to apply to the duke of Norfolk, to be a mediator with the king, to urge her marriage to him, looks as if it had been proposed by others, not by himself; and that he was pausing and doubting about it. To exculpate the princess is impossible, unless the letter be a forgery; but it will be equitable to her to remember, that she was but nineteen years old⁶⁰. If it were genuine, the impatient forwardness of the lady made Richard in greater danger of being the seduced, than the seducer.

The supposition of such a marriage becoming public, a general murmur arose against it, which the king's most faithful counsellors thought it unwise to brave. Ratcliffe and Catesby firmly resisted the project; and told Richard, that if he did not unhesitatingly contradict it, even his northern friends would rebel against him. No one could endure an incestuous marriage between an uncle and his niece. Twelve doctors in theology also gave their opinion, that

⁵⁹ Bucke says, 'All these be her own words, written with her own hand, and this is the sum of her letter, which remains, under her own hand, in the magnificent cabinet of Thomas earl of Arundel and Surrey.' p. 568. But he has given the substance, not a copy,

of the letter; and this omission, in such an important document, is a matter of great mistrust.

⁶⁰ She was born the 11th of February 1465. Graft. 668.

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that the pope could not legalize it by any dispensation. The world would not give his ministers the credit of disinterested probity on this occasion. Their reasoning and feelings were just; but it was believed, that their real motive was, a fear that Elizabeth might gain the king's affection, and govern his mind, and then revenge the death of her own uncle, lord Rivers, on those who had recommended it. Richard listened to their counsels; and a little before Easter, in the great hall of St. John's Priory, Clerkenwell, before the mayor and corporation of London, in a clear and loud voice, solemnly disavowed the imputed intention⁶¹.

The death of the queen greatly diminished Richard's interest in the hearts of the country; and as the will obeys the feeling, the loss of moral influence is the loss of actual power. The abandonment and denial of his intended marriage with Elizabeth, did not avert the disgust at its believed conception. It was assumed, that he had meant it; and that fear of the consequences alone prevented him from adding a moral sin to his great suspected crime. Hence, he began the fatal year of 1485 with a diminution of his own safety, by the very measures which human calculation had supposed would most firmly consolidate it. Such will be the issue of all policy, that is not founded on moral rectitude. Richard too easily confounded the gaining of a present point, with its permanent advantage; and did not see, that the success we exult in is often the benefit which leads to our discomfiture.

Yet, although there was much that menaced, still no tangible danger was near. A military force moved every where promptly at his command, which promised to make Richmond's invasion an

⁶¹ Croyl. 572. He adds, that 'many thought he obeyed the wishes of his advisers, rather than his own.' Richard shows the consequences of once getting a bad character. Few would afterwards give him credit for

any right action. This hostile propensity of mankind has driven many to utter wickedness and ruin. Though every one feels his own spots to be removeable, no one will believe another's to be so.

an absurdity. No enemy was any where in force. All rebellion was overawed, the discontented driven away, and silent obedience pervaded the island. Individual noblemen and gentlemen frequently passed over to Henry⁶²; but their absence from England lessened the chances of internal revolt; and the speedy recovery of Hammes, which its governor, on releasing Oxford, had surrendered to Richmond's friends, elated the king's mind, as an omen of his final triumph⁶³. This exultation was completed when he heard, that Charles VIII. meant to give his threatening invaders but a slender assistance. He procured certain intelligence, that they meant to attempt a landing; but could not learn, that any part was fixed on. To guard every point, he went himself, about Whitsuntide, into the northern counties⁶⁴; and more completely to baffle their projects, and to keep the minds of the country from any uncertainty as to the succession, he had the earl of Lincoln, his most beloved sister's son, declared to be his heir apparent⁶⁵.

It was no loss to society, that Buckingham failed and fell. He was not the man to regenerate the nobility of England, or to plant moral principles on its throne. Yet, although he perished, neither lamented nor unmeritingly, it was he that wove the plans and made the cords, which pulled down Richard from his state. His death left them broken and scattered; but in his few weeks of activity, he had so ably organized his confederations, created so much mutual confidence, and established such an unity of heart and hand, that as soon as a superior character, and a more principled

⁶² Fab. 518. Hall, 407. One of these, who joined Richmond, was Fox, a priest of great understanding and learning, whom the prince immediately attached to his secret councils, and made him afterwards bishop of Winchester. Graft. 835.

⁶³ Hall, 408.

⁶⁴ Croyl. 573. From the Harl. MSS.

N^o 433, it appears, that excepting three short residences at Windsor, he continued in London and Westminster from the beginning of the year 1485 to the middle of May. On June the 1st, he was at Coventry; on the 6th, at Kenilworth; and, on the 22d, at Nottingham. p. 200—219.

⁶⁵ Hollingshed, 747.

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principled mind, appeared, to re-assume their direction, all their spirit revived, and their combinations were renewed; and Richmond, with the aid of his mother, Morton, and Stanley, was enabled at last to execute what Buckingham, with such a master-intellect, had sketched.

Yielding to his mother's representations of Richard's altered conduct towards her family, the marquis of Dorset endeavored to escape from his co-exiles at Paris, and to join her family in the English court. He left the French capital secretly at night, and travelled with great expedition toward Flanders; but his departure became known to Richmond, who obtained the French king's authority to arrest him. He was overtaken at Compeigne, and carried back to Paris⁶⁶.

The information that Richard intended to marry Elizabeth, made Henry despair of uniting himself with the line of York; and he turned his thoughts to an alliance with one of the powerful Welsh families⁶⁷. But this desertion of Dorset having alarmed him for the stability of his other friends, he decided on attempting his enterprize without delay; and, therefore, obtaining a small force, and borrowing some money from the French king, for which he left Dorset and sir John Bouchier, as hostages, he went to Rouen, collected his friends, and prepared with celerity a little fleet at Harfleur, to sail as soon as it was ready⁶⁸.

One of Richard's wisest actions had been, to have a statute passed, declaring illegal the forced loans called Benevolencies⁶⁹, which his brother had, with such great unpopularity, exacted. His expensive state, his lavish liberalities to his friends, his repeated preparations against his enemies, and his wary guarding and fortifying every accessible point of landing, and every place of danger, in the interior, had so exhausted the royal treasury and its ordinary supplies, that the king allowed himself to have recourse to the

⁶⁶ Graft. 840. Hall, 409.

⁶⁷ Graft. 840.

⁶⁸ Graft. 840.

⁶⁹ Stat. of Realm, 2, p. 478.

the very measure, which he had pleased the country by condemning and abrogating. He revived what he had annulled; and compelled his wealthy subjects to give him the sums for which he arbitrarily taxed them, under the same fictitious name of a benevolence. This measure struck a fatal blow at what remained of his popularity. The hope and experienced benefit of a good government might have yet preserved him; but, when his subjects found their property attacked by his despotic will, a spirit of indifference in some, of resentment in others, arose against him, which paralyzed those exertions in his favor, when the last great crisis came upon him⁷⁰.

The rumors, that Henry's preparations for his invasion were advancing to maturity, increasing every day, Richard tried, in vain, by all his secret agents, to ascertain in what part he meant to land⁷¹. Baffled by Richmond's secrecy, or inability to select out the safest place, he stationed lord Lovel at Southampton, to watch, with his fleet, all the coasts of the southern counties; and with orders to assemble all the forces in his neighborhood, and to attack his enemies as soon as they had disembarked. He was so sure that the attempt would be in these parts of England, that a large portion of his resources was expended⁷² there, in providing the means of effectual and instantaneous resistance. Having thus, as he believed, averted danger from its most probable and accessible points of entrance, he went west to Kenilworth castle, in the beginning of June; and towards the latter end of the month, stationed himself at Nottingham⁷³; a safe and central point, from which

⁷⁰ The Harl. MSS. N° 433, p. 275—8, contains the letters sent by the king, exacting these benevolencies, and mentioning the sum which each person, secular or religious, was required to give. On the great unpopularity of these exactions, see the strong language of Croyland, p. 571, 2. Fabian says, the least sum that he borrowed of any one in London, was 40*l*. Yet he adds, that to these he delivered good and sufficient pledges. His

want of money appears, from the warrants in the Harl. MSS. for the pledging and sale of his plate.

⁷¹ Croyl. 572.

⁷² Ib. 573.

⁷³ Harl. MSS. N° 433, p. 218, 219. From Nottingham, on the 22d of June, he issued letters to the commissioners of array, in every county, to muster his subjects in arms. Ib. p. 220.

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which he could himself move to any part of the kingdom, that should demand his immediate presence. He passed his July in a state of royal enjoyment, without any prospect or dread of the tempest, which, from its imperceptible distance, was on the wing to overwhelm him.

It was one of his severest calamities, and the immediate cause of his destruction, that some of those in whom he most confided and employed, and whom he had most bounteously enriched, treacherously engaged, even while in his service, in the conspiracy against him. One of these was Morgan Kidwelly, his attorney-general⁷⁴. This perfidious law officer, of his confidential council, sent Richmond secret word, that sir Rice ap Thomas, who watched for Richard, with a commanding influence and high character, in Wales, and whose zealous hostility would have frustrated all invasion there, would apply, to his assistance, the great preparations he was ostensibly making against him; and that sir John Savage, who controlled Cheshire for the king, was equally favorable. He added, that Bray had collected money enough to supply his troops in their movements; and he recommended him to take his course directly into Wales⁷⁵. To this intelligence Henry owed his success, and Richard his downfall. He had been before so undecided himself where to land, that his own uncertainty, in addition to his judicious secrecy, had baffled Richard's inquisitorial penetration. This advice determined the earl to sail immediately to Wales; and, by thus avoiding every part which Richard had sufficiently and sedulously guarded with his most faithful forces, and by entering the island at the quarter where he was least expected, he was enabled to turn all the king's preparations in the rear; and to be in the heart of England, before Richard could gain correct

⁷⁴ His appointment of attorney general to Richard, is in the Harl. MSS. N^o 433, p. 79; and there are several grants to him in it, as the stewardship of all the lordships in the dutchies of Lancaster and Dorset. Ib. 49. Several manors, p. 63, &c.

⁷⁵ Graft. 841. Pol. Virg. 559. Hall, 410. Richard had given Bray a general pardon. Harl. MSS. p. 34.

correct certainty that he had reached it. There must have been traitors in Richard's cabinet, for his rival to have been thus directed to take the fittest measures for success, with such exact precision and unchecked results⁷⁶.

Richmond sailed from Harfleur with a petty force of 2,000 men, in a few vessels; and in seven days, reaching Milford haven on the 1st of August, he debarked at Dalle, and marched the next dawn to Haverfordwest, where, as the grandson of a descendant of Brutus, Beli, Arthur, and Cadwallader, and as coming to place a dynasty of ancient British ancestry on the throne of England, which had been so long held from it by Saxon and Norman intruders, he was cheerfully received⁷⁷. His landing and march were so secret and rapid, that the inhabitants, till they saw him, did not know that he had arrived⁷⁸.

At first, he was disappointed to hear, that both Rice ap Thomas and Savage meant to attack him. He marched immediately northward to Cardigan. Fresh tidings occurred there to dismay him, that sir Walter Herbert, on whose friendship he had calculated, was collecting a force at Carmarthen, to arrest his progress. These accounts alarmed his little army; but retreat was impossible; desperate courage was their only safety; and each man assayed his armor, and sharpened his weapons, to sell their lives dearly. In this state of apprehension, Richmond sent out horsemen to explore; and while they were collecting intelligence, the arrival of two Welsh gentlemen of eminence, though with small numbers, recovered his spirit from the dismay of unsuccored destitution.

⁷⁶ The taking the great seal from the bishop of Lincoln, on the 1st of August 1485, looks like a suspicion or discovery of some infidelity in him. Rym. 12, p. 271, 2. The billet afterwards thrown on the duke of Norfolk's tent,

' Jack of Norfolk, be not too bold,
For Dickon thy master is *bought and sold*,'
explicitly indicated the treason, and warned him to avoid its inevitable consequences.

Graft. 850. Savage, Hungerford, and Bouchier, were in the near and confidential stations of knights of his body.

⁷⁷ Croyl. 573. Pol. Virg. 560. Graft. 841.

⁷⁸ Graft. ib. He received assurances of service from Pembroke; yet Richard had confirmed their privileges, and added new grants. Harl. MS. p. 100. Sir William Stanley had been appointed constable, and captain of Carnarvon. Harl. MS. 445.

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destitution. His men returned with information, that Rice and Herbert were in harness before him, ready to encounter him, and stop his passage⁷⁹.

But it was on the Stanleys, and his English friends, that he mainly relied; and to reach them before Richard's eagle eye, and certain rapidity of movement, the hour his path was known, could intercept him, was his only chance and hope. To effect this, and yet to conceal his line of march, he proceeded, without resting, over the mountain passes, and by the least frequented tracks, and through the most unpeopled districts, attacking, without hesitation, and surprizing with ease, all the defended posts that were in his way, direct into Shropshire; sending also off trusty messengers, as he moved, to his mother, lord Stanley, and sir Gilbert Talbot, uncle of earl Shrewsbury, to apprize them of his coming; and intimating the time when he should pass the Severn at Shrewsbury, with the intention of advancing immediately to London⁸⁰. As he approached this town, he was gratified to see the dreaded Rice ap Thomas marching peacefully to join him. He had determined this hesitating Welshman to desert Richard, by promising, two days before, to make him the chief governor of Wales⁸¹. Thus assured, that he should lose nothing by his change of sides, the prudent sir Rice, whom his Welsh encomiasts transform into an ancient hero, with that easy painting of verbal bombast, which caricatures while it labors to extol⁸², betrayed the trust committed to him by his king; and in violation of his sworn allegiance of his

⁷⁹ Graft. 841, 2. Pol. V. 560. Hall, 411. Mr. Pennant mentions a Welsh tradition, that while Henry was at Tremostyn, in Flintshire, about dinner time, a party attached to Richard arrived, with intent to apprehend him; but, with the assistance of the family, he leaped out of a back window, and escaped through a hole, which is still called The King's Hole. Penn. Tour.

⁸⁰ Graft. 842. Pol. V. 560. Hall, 411.

¹ Graft. 842. P. V. 560. Hall, 411.

⁸² The author of his life, written in the early part of James I. is so carried away by his Welsh enthusiasm, that, not content with making a man, scarcely known out of Wales, 'more than a Hannibal,' and both a Marcellus and Fabius, and also a shield of Britain, he exclaims, 'Oh! had we, in our late expeditions, flead this great Rice, and clapped his skins upon our drum-head, we had, no question, made an absolute conquest of the French, or rattled them away, or shown ourselves invincible.' Camb. Register, 1795, p. 52.

his own written promise⁸³, "heading a goodly company," he marched with his enemy to dethrone him. But gentlemanly perjury was the fashion of the day, in all that concerned loyalty, from the king himself to the poorest fighter that could boast a coat of arms. Richard, however, was outdone, in protestations at least, by his nobility.

Richmond's messengers returned to him from his friends, as he reached Shrewsbury, with the comforting assurances, that they were ready and faithful. He advanced to Newport; and pitching his camp on a little hill adjoining, he resolved to rest there from his fatigues that night; which was made more pleasant to him, by Talbot joining him with the whole power of the young earl of Shrewsbury, amounting to 2,000 men. Thus reinforced, the next day he proceeded resolutely to Stafford; and there paused, to determine on his future movements⁸⁴.

That Richard was reposing in a false security, and was taken quite by surprize, by Richmond's secrecy and celerity of march, which seems never to have been excelled, is manifest, by several circumstances. It was not till the beginning of August, that his best friend, the duke of Norfolk, was called on for his military forces⁸⁵; and so late as the 16th of August, his steady adherents,

⁸³ His biographer mentions, that Richard 'sent commissioners to Carmarthen, to Rice, to take of him an oth of fidelitie. *The oth, Rice ap Thomas stood not upon.* Life, p. 86. In his letter to the king, after declaring, that he will 'faithfullie observe' his oath, which he says he had taken, he adds, 'I deem it not unseasonable to add this voluntary protestation, that whoever, ill-affected to the state, shall dare to land in those parts of Wales where I have employments, against your majestie, must resolve with himself to make his entrance and irruption *over my bellie.*' p. 86. He even adds, 'This is my religion, that no vowe can lay a stronger obligation upon me, in anie manner of performance, *than my conscience.* My

conscience binds me to love and serve my king and country: my vowe can doe noe more. Sir! I am resolutelie bent to spin out my days in well-doing: and sure, sir! could I find myself culpable of one single cogitation, repugnant to the allegiance I owe to your Majestie, I should think, alreadie, I have lived over long.' Ib. p. 86. What can we say of such men? His friend confesses, that he 'threw the first stone, and opened the gate to Richard's destruction.' p. 81.

⁸⁴ Graft. 842. Pol. V. 560. Hall, 411.

⁸⁵ The duke writes to a friend, a little before August 15th. 'The king's enemies be on land. The king would have set forth, as upon Monday, (14th August,) but only for our

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at York, sent their serjeant of mace to ask him, if they should send up any aids from that city; and his orders did not reach it till the 19th of August, but three days before the deciding battle; when the gentleman of the mace was directed to march as captain, with 400 men in harness, with all haste possible, to reach him⁸⁶. Richard despised his competitor too much. A youth, who had never marshalled a field, nor seen a battle, was, as a warrior, contemptible in his eyes; and so he is mentioned to have expressed himself concerning him, on the day of conflict⁸⁷. Hence, when at length he heard of Richmond's arrival in England, his fewness of numbers made the king think preparations unnecessary. He knew that his armed officers were sufficient to destroy them⁸⁸. He professed an exceeding joy, that the day had now come, when he should have an easy triumph, and the comfort of a future peaceful reign⁸⁹; and such would have been the issue, if the battle had rested merely between Richmond and himself, or if his country or his army had proved faithful. But, though he sent out letters of menace in every county of the kingdom, full of his own fierce ardor for the decision; and commanding every one, whose rank and estates made it obligatory on him to follow his sovereign to war, to join him without delay, on the pain of death and confiscation, after his victory should be gained⁹⁰; though he sent to the duke of Norfolk; his son, the earl of Surrey; to the earl of Northumberland, and other noblemen, to muster their tenants and retainers,

and

our Lady's-day, (Assumption, 15th August;) but, for certain, he goeth forward as upon Tuesday. Meet me at Bury; for I purpose to lie at Bury on 'Tuesday night. Bring with you such company of tall men as ye may goodly make, *at my cost, besides* that ye have promised the king.' 2 Fenn, p. 334.

⁸⁶ See the minutes of the city council, in Drake's Eboracum. p. 120.

⁸⁷ According to Grafton, Richard called him 'a man of small courage, and of less experience in martial art, and feats of war; who never saw army, nor was exercised in martial

affairs; by reason whereof he neither can nor is able, of his own wit or experience, to guide or rule an hoste.' Graft. 847. So Hall, 415.

⁸⁸ 'Disdaining to hear speak of so poor a company, he determined, at first, to take little or no regard to this so small a sparkle.' Graft. 843. So Fabian remarks, that, as he feared Richmond little, he made at first but small provision against him. p. 519.

⁸⁹ Croyl. 573.

⁹⁰ Ib.

and come speedily to him; and summoned sir Robert Brackenbury from the Tower, with his military force; and to bring with him the knights whom he suspected⁹¹;—and although, by these means, he assembled a greater army than England had usually seen about the person of its king⁹², yet it was but a splendid military parade, without either zealous hands or sympathizing hearts. It obeyed awhile from terror, but was prepared to betray. It moved at his command, while the largest portion of its battalions meditated his discomfiture.

Lord Stanley had continued to deceive Richard, with such well-acted hypocrisy, that in the preceding January, the king had deputed him, with his son lord Strange, and his brother sir William, to lead all the forces of Cheshire against his invaders, if they should arrive⁹³. Though deep in Richmond's enterprize, he retained the confidential honor of lord steward of the king's household⁹⁴, at the hour of the invasion; and thus had the means of communicating the most important information of all Richard's designs, means, friends, and movements, to his rival; and of forming intrigues the most pernicious to his master. A little before Richmond's landing, his prudence led him to desire the king's permission to visit his house and family, from which he had been long absent. Leave was granted, on his sending his eldest son, lord Strange, to attend the court at Nottingham, in his stead. Sir William Stanley was, at that time, the chamberlain of North Wales. Thus Wales, and its bordering counties, were officially obeying the men, who, though appointed over them by the king, were determined to betray him. When Richard heard of Richmond's landing, with a reasonable mistrust of the influence of the earl's mother, the wife of Stanley, he sent for this lord to come to him. Stanley answered, that he was ill of the sweating sickness, then prevailing; but at the same time,

his

⁹¹ Graft. 843. Hall, 412.

⁹² Croyl. 573.

⁹³ Harl. MSS. N° 433, p. 201. It is dated 12 January.

⁹⁴ Croyl. 573.

his son, lord Strange, endeavored privately to escape from the court. Being taken and questioned, he, like Buckingham, confessed all the plots, as far as he knew them; and astonished the king with the intelligence, that his father and uncle, and sir John Savage, were in league with the invaders. He implored mercy, on the ground, that when his father knew of his detection and danger, he would abandon Richmond, and serve faithfully under the king⁹⁵. The young nobleman over-rated his own importance. His father left him to all the peril of his pusillanimity: and only took the precaution not to join Richmond publicly, till the actual moment of beginning the impending conflict.

The disastrous consequence of Richard's being thus taken by surprize, was, that his most faithful adherents were in other parts, guarding the districts which he thought most in danger; and that he was compelled to assemble, with indiscriminating haste, a promiscuous mass of force, whose readiness of attendance masqued their indifferency or their projected treason, and whose numbers elated his vanity and infatuated his confidence. He knew his own military talents, and he saw, that the exertions of such an army, under his guidance, must be invincible; and although sir Walter Hungerford, and sir Thomas Bouchier, the knights whom he had greatly benefited, but now mistrusted, that accompanied Brackenbury, had, on finding themselves doubted or discovered, left their associates at Stoney Stratford, and gone to Richmond⁹⁶; yet hoping, that all who had remained were attached to him, he did not attempt to read further the secrets of the bosoms of his mailed host, but marched them from Nottingham to Leicester, in the most ostentatious pomp. On Sunday, the 20th of August, with his jewelled crown on his head, seated on a great white steed, surrounded by a chosen guard; his army marshalled to advance, in a marching column of infantry, five and five in a rank; while his

⁹⁵ Croyl. 573.
Hall, 412. Pol. V. 561.

⁹⁶ Both these two knights, and others, left him. Graft. 843

his cavalry, like expanded wings, ranged and coasted over the country as they moved, he entered Leicester in magnificent state, after sun set, followed by an immense multitude of people⁹⁷.

It was his last day of enjoying, in the sight of his people, the gorgeous state he loved. On Monday, the 21st, he passed from Leicester to the abbey of Mirivall, about eight miles off, and there encamped on Anbeame hill⁹⁸; hoping to suppress his antagonist on the morrow. During this night, sir John Savage, who commanded the Chester men, sir Brian Sanforde, and sir Simon Digby, with several others, with a select body of forces, left the royal army, and joined that of Richmond, at Atherstone: an important acquisition, from their military experience, as well as their name⁹⁹.

At Stafford, Richmond had been met by sir William Stanley; and after a long consultation with him, moved to Litchfield, and encamped outside of the town during the night. In the morning he entered it, and was received with acclamations. Lord Stanley had reached the same place, with nearly 5,000 men; but hearing of Richmond's approach, repaired to Atherstone. He made this movement to deceive Richard, and to save his son¹⁰⁰. From Litchfield, Richmond advanced steadily towards Tamworth. In the march he lingered in the rear, with a few horsemen; musing, with some uneasiness, at lord Stanley's apparent hesitation, as if he doubted what might yet be his last determination¹⁰¹. His meditations were so intense, (for as all among whom he came were

strange

⁹⁷ Croyl. 573, 4. Graft. 844.

⁹⁸ Croyl. 574. 6 Parl. Rolls, 276. Holingshed mentions the name of the hill, p. 755. He calls it Anne Beame; but this is not a lady's name. 'An beame' is Saxon for 'one tree'; it was, therefore, One-tree hill.

⁹⁹ Graft. 844. Pol. V. 562. Hall, 413.

¹⁰⁰ Graft. 842, 3. Pol. V. 561. Hall, 412.

¹⁰¹ Hall remarks, that Richmond 'was not a little afraid, because he was in no wise assured of lord Stanley, who, for fear of his

son, as yet inclined to neither.' p. 413. So Pol. V. 562. Stanley seems to have kept both parties in an uncertainty as to his ultimate decision; for the account of the battle in the Harl. MSS. 542, which seems a Stanley statement, in an half poetical form, mentions, that a messenger came to sir William, with the impression, that lord Stanley would fight for Richard, within three hours. 'That would I not,' quod the knight, 'for all the world in Cristentie.' Nicholl has printed this, p. 213.

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strange to him, he had nothing but their verbal assurance to rely on for their fidelity) that his army had marched out of his sight and hearing, before he perceived that he was unintentionally left alone. The evening began to obscure the horizon; he lost the road, and wandered about, without knowing where he was. He reached a small village, in jeopardy of falling in with Richard's light horsemen, that were scouring the country for intelligence. He dared not ask a question, but rested there secretly and silently till day break¹⁰².

When the light returned, he discovered the traces of his army; and, by joining them, relieved that uneasiness which had been excited by his unaccountable absence. Then departing for Atherstone, he obtained a secret interview with lord Stanley and his brother, in a little close near; and settled their plans for the next day's battle¹⁰³.

The agitations of anxious mind, or the secret agencies of diseased nature, shook the frame of Richard, during the repose he sought in the night before the battle. Figures of black shapes, like demons, arose in his dreams, and moved around him, and would not suffer him to rest. He awoke before day light; exhausted, terrified, and unmanned. He was ashamed of his perturbations; and fearing least his attendants should misconstrue the nervous affections of a weak body for unworthy fear, he confessed the disturbing dreams. His chaplain was absent. His morning refreshment, to recruit his strength for the day's task, was not ready. His trembling form, his attenuated, pale and discoloured face, were too perceptible to himself, not to be accounted for to others; and he preferred a disclosure, that must have been reluctant, of his dismaying dream, to the suspicion of unmanly cowardice¹⁰⁴. He added, that the event

of

¹⁰² Graft. 844. Pol. V. 562. Hall, 413.

¹⁰³ Ib. Ib. Ib.

¹⁰⁴ I consider the Croyland account, p. 574, to be the most authentic, as it is the earliest, of this scene; and have therefore adopted it. Pol. V. 562, Grafton, p. 845, and Hall, 414,

are very similar. Drayton and Shakspeare, with the gratuitous inventions of poets, have turned the black shapes into the ghosts of those whose deaths were popularly ascribed to the king. Pol. Virgil refers these spectral appearances, not to his sleep, but to his conscience,

of that day would be fatal to England, whatever party conquered. If he were victorious, he avowed a determination to take a deadly revenge on all who supported his adversary; and if Richmond triumphed, he believed he would be as sanguinary¹⁰⁵. Finding Stanley still kept aloof, he ordered his son's head to be taken off. But his people anticipated so much uncertainty, as to the event of the battle, that they did not chuse to commit themselves to the consequences of such a violence. They delayed its execution till the armies began to move; and then, reminding the king that the battle was beginning, and that he could execute his vengeance the moment he had secured the victory, the young nobleman was saved¹⁰⁶.

The king's frame and spirits were too much agitated by his nervous emotions, to have that alacrity of mind, and cheerfulness of countenance, which he had always displayed on the morning of a battle¹⁰⁷. But he exerted his military skill; and ranged his troops for the conflict, so as to ensure a speedy victory. His plan was to intimidate, and outfront his enemy; and, therefore, he extended his vanguard to an unusual length. In the centre he placed his archers, like a strong fortified bulwark, under Norfolk and his son¹⁰⁸. He supported this by a select body, in a dense square, commanded

conscience, which, he adds, if at no other time, will, at least at the eve of death, represent to us our misdeeds, and give us intimations of their future punishment. The king's agitation of mind may have disturbed his bodily functions; but we need not go further than these, to account for his harrowing dream.

¹⁰⁵ Croyland, 574. What was believed and circulated of Richard's vindictive intentions, we may see in the Harl. MSS. N° 542. 'He swore, that from the town of Lancastre to Shrowsberye, knyght ne squire, he wold leave none alyve: and he wold deal theyr lands to his knyghtes, from the Holyhead to St. David's land.' 'Where are castles and towers high, I shall make parks and plain fields. They shall all repent, that ever he

rose against his king.' Nicholl's Hutt. 208. With such exaggerations was this king's memory pursued. B. Andreas ascribes to him similar sentiments. MS. Domit. A. 18.

¹⁰⁶ Croyl. 574. Graft. 852.

¹⁰⁷ Pol. V. 562. Graft. 845.

¹⁰⁸ Pol. V. 562. Graft. 845, 6. Hall, 414.

The 'instar munitissimi valli' of Polydore: and the like, 'a strong fortified trench or bulwark' of Grafton, into which Richard is stated to have formed what may be called his artillery, are what the following passage, in the Harl. MSS. N° 542, alludes to. 'Richard had seven score sargents, that were chained and locked in a row; and as many bombards, and thousands of morispikes, harquebushes, &c.' MSS. ib. and Nicholl's Hutt. 215.

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commanded by himself, with his diadem on his head, with wings of cavalry on each side of his battle¹⁰⁹.

Richmond had pitched his army very near his enemies camp; and rested tranquilly that night. In the earliest part of the morning, his men having armed themselves at his command, he sent to lord Stanley, who had posted himself between both armies, to come, and draw up his soldiers in the most effective array. The lord desired him to follow his own judgment in their disposition, as he could not be with him till the most convenient time of co-operation. This refusal again alarmed Richmond, who was now approaching the great crisis of his peculiar adventure; and who foresaw his certain ruin, if Stanley either disappointed him, or should too long hesitate. But he had two able advisers with him, in lord Oxford and sir John Savage. With their aid, he formed his force into three divisions; making his front as extended as he could safely spread it; and, therefore, from the small number of his own forces, slender and weak. The centre, consisting of his archers, he committed to Oxford. The right wing to sir Gilbert Talbot; the left to sir John Savage, who had so recently abandoned Richard to join him¹¹⁰. His own army was but 5,000 men. But lord Stanley, on one side of him, had as many more; and sir William, on the other, commanded 3,000¹¹¹. It was obvious that the movements of the two Stanleys would decide the fate of the conflict. Richard's army doubled all these¹¹². But

Northumberland,

¹⁰⁹ Graft. 846. Hall, 414.

‘He himself the second bringing on, which was a perfect square,’

says Drayton, who lived near the place of battle, and describes it with care.

¹¹⁰ Graft. 846. Pol. V. 563. Sir John Savage was one of the mourners at the funeral of Edward IV. as were sir John Cheney, and sir Walter Hungerford, who were now with Richmond. Harl. MSS. N° 6,111. Richard had trusted Savage so fully, as to make him one of the commissioners to take the oath of allegiance from the people of Kent. He had

made him knight of his body, and rewarded him with grants. Harl. MSS. 433, p. 28, 102, 131, 141. He had put a similar confidence in Bourchier. Ib. p. 142. He had also rewarded Hungerford, and made him an esquire of his body, and keeper of parks in Wells. Harl. MSS. p. 16, 27.

¹¹¹ Graft. 846. Hall, 414. Pol. V. 563.

¹¹² Ib. The Harl. MSS. N° 542, which, though it seems a versified account, cut down into a prose narrative, yet preserves some valuable particulars, says, ‘kynge Richard in a marris dyd stand nombred to XX thousand,

Northumberland, who governed almost a third of his force, was prepared to display a neutralizing spirit, that, in the shock of battle, would, from its disheartening effects, be worse than hostility¹¹³.

Richard, calling his chieftains together, addressed them in a short and energetic speech. He expressed his regret for the one criminal action, by which he had sullied his name, and destroyed his comfort. He painted to them the inexperience of Richmond, and the weakness of his army. "Wherefore, advance your standards; let each man give but one sure stroke, and the battle is our own. As for myself, I assure you, that I will this day either triumph by victory, or suffer death for immortal fame¹¹⁴." His address was received with apparent applause; but his different leaders had settled in their minds, the various parts they should act. Some were steady, resolute and animated; others determined to stand still, and look on; and some to side only with the conquerors¹¹⁵. With an army thus broken in opinion, and unattached in feeling, what skill or valor could avail?

Battle of Bosworth field,
22 August
1485.

Richmond rode from rank to rank through his army, giving comfortable words to all; and then ascending a small hill near, "armed in all pieces but his helmet," he prepared to address the whole line. He was not tall, but his countenance was animated; his yellow hair, like burnished gold, flowed gracefully about his quick, gray and shining eyes¹¹⁶; and his loud voice echoing round them, in a bold tone and easy eloquence, conveyed to them his declaration of his trust in heaven for victory; his indignant exposition of Richard's unnatural cruelty; his intimation to prevent alarm, that it was not numbers which gave success; his pledge to them, that in such a quarrel, rather than fail they should find him a dead corpse

thousand, and three under his bannar.' MSS.
ib. Nicholl's Hutt. 216.

¹¹³ Graft. 851.

¹¹⁴ Though it is not likely that we have the words of the two speeches of Richard and

Henry, in Grafton and Hall, yet they have most probably given us the topics.

¹¹⁵ Graft. 847.

¹¹⁶ Ib. Hall. 416.

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corpse on the cold ground, than a prisoner on a carpet in a lady's chamber; and his appeal to heaven for the triumph, as they came to avenge murder. He ended, "Get this day the victory, and be conquerors—lose this day's battle, and be slaves. In the name of the Supreme then and of St. George, let every man courageously advance forth his standard¹¹⁷."

The soldiers now on both sides buckled their helms and shook their bills, while the archers bent their bows and frushed the feathers of their arrows: a great impassable marsh divided the two armies. Richmond's made the first movement, and rapidly placed themselves with their right on this marsh, which not only protected that, but caused them to have the sun at their backs, while it shone full dazzling in the face of their opponents¹¹⁸. This judicious manœuvre began the battle, with a secured flank and an encouraging advantage.

The most faithful part of Richard's army, was the division which the duke of Norfolk commanded. It was essential to break this, before the victory could be hoped for; and Oxford resolved to attempt this atchievement¹¹⁹. To attack it with effect, the earl suddenly condensed his front. Their antagonists mistrusting some fraud, paused a while their destructive exertions. But Oxford having combined all his men into one connected band, made a furious attack on Richard's centre; while lord Stanley, throwing off all disguise, charged from the right flank¹²⁰. Richard omitted no exertions to counteract the effect of this alarming movement. But the largest part of his army did not chuse to fight at all; and Northumberland also betraying him, drew off his men to a little distance from the battle, and remained a tranquil spectator of the now desperate and unequal conflict¹²¹.

There

¹¹⁷ Graft. 847. Hall, 416.

¹¹⁸ Graft. 849. Hall. 418. The marsh had been drained in Hollingshed's time. p. 758.

¹¹⁹ Croyl. 574.

¹²⁰ Graft. 849, 850. Hall, 418. Pol. V. 563. Cannon appear to have been used;

'the archers let theyr arrows flye; they shot off goonns.' Harl. MSS. 542. Nicholl, 216. Thus Drayton,

'So thro' the misty smoke,
By shot and ordnance made, a thundering
noise was heard.'

¹²¹ Grafton, 851; Hall, 419; Hollings. 789, mention

There is a tradition, that at one period of the struggle, Richard turned out of it to refresh himself, by drinking at a well¹²². It was probably at this time, that his staunch friends, seeing the treachery that was entangling him, brought him a swift and light horse; and advised him to quit the field, and save himself by flight¹²³. He resolutely refused. He re-placed his beloved crown conspicuously on his head; bent his mind to the mortal result; and exclaimed, with a heroism of soul, that few men can command, "Not one foot will I fly: I will this day either end all my battles, or here finish my life. I will die king of England¹²⁴."

He closed his helmet, and rushed again into the yet contending forces; but his impetuosity was soon tempted into a fatal precipitation. He had sustained the conflict, with a bravery rarely

mention, that Northumberland stood still, with a great company, and intermitted not in the battle.

Drayton says,

'He doth but vainly look
For succors from the great Northumberland
this while,
That from the battle scarce three quarters of
a mile,
Stood with his power of horse; nor once was
seen to stir.'

The inactivity of other parts of his army is mentioned by Grafton. 'The greatest number which, compelled by fear of the king, and not of their mere voluntary motion, came to the field, gave never a stroke.' p. 850.

¹²² Dr. S. Parr, whose classical erudition, few, if any, of his contemporaries equal, has interested himself with exploring this spring. In his letter on it, dated the 13th of September 1813, he says, 'Six or seven years ago, I found Dick's well, out of which, the tradition is, that Richard drank during the battle. It was in dirty, mossy ground, and seemed to me in danger of being destroyed by the cattle. I therefore bestirred myself to have it preserved.' He composed the following inscription for it. 'Aquâ, ex hoc puteo haustâ,

sitim sedavit Ricardus tertius rex Angliæ cum Henrico comite de Richmondia acerrime atque infensissime prælians, et vitâ pariter ac sceptro ante noctem cariturus, 2 kal. Sept. A. D. 1485.' Nich. Hutt. Bosw. ad vect. x. xi.

¹²³ Graft. 851. Pol. V. 564. This advice has been ascribed to Catesby.

¹²⁴ Ib. Harl. MS. N° 542. Nic. Hutt. 217. An interesting incident is mentioned of sir John Byron and sir Gervase Clifton, friends and neighbors in Nottinghamshire. Byron joined Henry; Clifton fought with Richard. They had agreed, that whichever party triumphed, the supporter of that should intercede with the victor, for his friend's estate, for the benefit of his family. In the midst of the battle, Byron saw Clifton fall, in the opposite ranks. He ran to him, sustained him on his shield, and intreated him to surrender. Clifton faintly exclaimed, 'All is over: remember your promise: use all your interest that my lands be not taken from my children;' and expired. Byron performed this promise, and the estate was preserved to the Clifton family. Hutton's Bos. Field, 117—9. There are grants to Clifton, in the Harl. MSS. 433, as p. 81, 96.

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rarely exemplified, under such circumstances, and kept victory at bay for two hours, when he saw the earl of Richmond before him—not far off, with a small number of men at arms. Too eager to terminate the contest by a personal encounter, he spurred his horse and rode out of the side of his battalion, into the lines of his adversary, to reach his then near competitor. He fixed his spear firmly in its rest; and though not strong in body, yet so furious and so vigorous was his assault, that he drove his lance through sir William Brandon's arm-pit, who was upholding and waving the earl's standard, and who fell dead at his feet. Richmond approached to meet him; but sir John Cheyney advancing first, the king, with a second shock, unhorsed the gallant knight at the first charge, though a man of large size and powerful strength¹²⁵. With his sword he then labored to cut a passage towards his rival, through the friends that crowded between; and he had again more than balanced the yet doubtful struggle, when sir William Stanley, seeing the dangerous crisis, and Richard's impending victory, and also the advantage which the king's daring courage had given him, suddenly surrounded Richard, with his hitherto neutral force of 3,000 men¹²⁶. This measure precluded all hope of either life or victory to the king. He cried out repeatedly, that he was betrayed; and yet, though his fate was inevitable, he never shrunk from daring it: but exclaiming, as his sword flashed on the armor of his opponents, "Treason! treason! treason¹²⁷!" as if to show that by treachery alone, he was conquered; he continued to hew down those he reached, till exhausted by wounds and fatigue, he fell manfully fighting in the middle of surrounding hosts, who admired, while

¹²⁵ Pol. V. 563. Graft, 849, 850. Hall, 418, 419. Drayton.

¹²⁶ Pol. Virgil says, that Henry's soldiers 'victoriam jam pene desperabant,' (p. 563) when sir William made the charge that rescued Henry, and destroyed Richard. So Grafton intimates, 'being almost in despair of victory.' 850. So Holling. 759. Henry's

own remark afterwards, on this important service of sir William's, was, that 'though he came time enough to save his life, yet he stayed long enough to endanger it.' Lord Bacon's Hen. VII. p. 611.

¹²⁷ We derive this striking circumstance from Rouse, a contemporary. p. 218.

while they suffered by his valor; fearless of all consequences, except disgrace as a soldier; and, therefore, anxious at that time only not to survive defeat. Like his father at Wakefield, he would not even retreat to fight a more advantageous battle. If Northumberland had charged with the forces he kept aloof, when sir William Stanley surrounded the king, he would have preserved his life and prevented his defeat. We can hardly conceive how a nobleman, who had acted with him, in destroying Rivers; and who, after Richard's other actions, had taken or kept so many honors and bounties from him, could stand, with cool faithlessness, and see his sovereign exert the most heroic valor against such ungenerous odds, and be almost, if not quite, in the hearing of his death-cries of treason—and yet not move one step, or send one man to his assistance. To let the king he had sworn to defend, be thus beaten down and slain, in his immediate presence, treacherously withholding relief,—was one of the most stubborn efforts of human insensibility, that history has recorded.

No talents could save Richard, amid associates like these. With such a nobility, he was environed in a fatal labyrinth, from which death only could release him¹²⁸. His crown had been hewed from his head, and was found full of dents in the field, by Bray, who delivered it to lord Stanley¹²⁹. The battle had ceased when Richard expired. Richmond apprized of the decisive victory, kneeled down and breathed his earnest thanks to heaven, for the triumph. Then ascending a hill, publicly thanked all his soldiers
for

¹²⁸ This battle is usually called, The Battle of Bosworth field; but the scene of action is called the Field of Redmore, in the York Register, which mentions the report of its issue, brought to the corporation 'by John Spon, sent unto the field of Redmore, to bring tidings from the same to the city.' Drake's Ebor. p. 121. So I observe Drayton thus styles it:

' O Redmore! then, it seemed, thy name
was not in vain,

When, with a thousand's blood, the earth
was coloured red.'

Redmore means, literally, red marsh, and was, perhaps, the name of the marsh on which Richmond lodged his right flank. But Henry VII. in his proclamation, three days after the battle, addressed to the same corporation, says, ' Richard was slain at a place called *Sandeford*, within the shire of Leicester.' Drake's Ebor. p. 122.

¹²⁹ Harl. MSS. 542. Nicholls, p. 217.

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for their bravery; and ordered the wounded to be taken care of, and the dead to be buried. The field rang with universal acclamations; and sir William Stanley, seeing the general feeling, placed the crown on Henry's head; and saluted him king, on the field of battle¹³⁰. Henry then moved his army into Leicester that night; and resting two days to refresh his friends, and receive their congratulations, prepared for his march to the metropolis. The dead body of Richard was selected from the rest; and, with an inhumanity, that disgraced the conquerors, but which corresponded with the unpitying feelings of the age, was stripped and thrown naked, and besmeared with blood and dirt, on the back of a horse, in the most contumelious manner; and after being exposed a while to the vulgar gaze, was buried without honor, in the Gray Friars' church, Leicester¹³¹. About 1,000 of his followers fell; and among these were the duke of Norfolk¹³², lord Ferrers, and sir Robert Brackenbury¹³³. Their deaths proved their steady fidelity; sir William Catesby escaped, only to be soon taken and to be beheaded, shortly afterwards¹³⁴.

Thus

¹³⁰ See Gent. Mag. 1789, vol. 59, p. 424.

¹³¹ Graft. 851, 2. Pol. V. 594. Hall, 419. He was so carried, that his head was crushed against a stone on the bridge. Speed, 737.

¹³² Of this nobleman, our old chronicler says truly, 'He regarded more his oath, his honor, and his promise made to king Richard, like a gentleman; and, as a faithful subject to his prince, he absented not himself from his master: but, as he faithfully lived under him, so he manfully died with him.' Holling. 759.

¹³³ It is said of Brackenbury, that, meeting Hungerford in the battle, who had quitted him on the march, he called him a deserting traitor. The latter replied, that he would not answer him by words; and aimed a blow at his head, that would have felled him, if Brackenbury had not caught it on his shield, which shivered with the force of the blow. Hungerford, with chivalric spirit, delivered his own target to his esquire, exclaiming, that

he would take no advantage; they should fight on equal terms. They renewed the conflict, till Brackenbury's helmet was made useless, and he was sorely wounded. Bourchier, who had left him with Hungerford, cried out, 'Spare his life, brave Hungerford! he has been our friend, and may be so again.' But it was too late: he died upon the spot. Hut. Bosw. Field, 115—7.

¹³⁴ On the 25th of August, three days after the battle, and on the day that he was beheaded, Catesby made his will. Of Henry, he says, 'He is called a full gracious prince; and *I never offended him*, by my good and free will; for God I take to my judge, *I have ever loved him*.' He adds, looking forward to his approaching execution, 'Pray you in every place, see clearness in my soul; and pray fast, and I shall for you; and Jesu have mercy on my soule, Amen. My lords Stanley, Strange, and all that blood! help! and pray for my soule, for ye have not for my body,

as

Thus fell Richard, the victim of treachery, unparalleled¹³⁵; for there seems to have been no national movement in favor of Richmond. It was a perfidious combination of five noblemen, which destroyed Richard. Exclusively of the force of the two Stanleys, Henry came to the battle with only 5,000. Of these he had brought 2,000 with him; and 2,000, were the earl of Shrewsbury's, under Talbot. So that, excepting these, all the rest who had joined him from his landing at Milford, to Bosworth field, including the mighty Rice ap Thomas, amounted but to 1,000 men. Hence, it was four English noblemen: the two Stanleys, Shrewsbury, and Northumberland; and the conscientious sir Rice, who dethroned Richard, by betraying and deserting him. The nation had no share in the conflict, notwithstanding all that is said of the king's unpopularity. It was an ambush of a few perfidious and disaffected noblemen, against the crown, which succeeded by their hypocrisy; and Richard perished by one of those factions in his aristocracy, from which, by taking the crown, it seemed likely that he had rescued himself. He had suppressed violently, what he thought dangerous, and he was overwhelmed by the explosion of a new mine, which he had not suspected to be forming beneath him, because it was prepared and fired by those whom gratitude, honor and conscience, ought to have made faithful and attached. Whatever had been his conduct towards his nephew, he had done nothing to them, to deserve that they should have destroyed him.

as I trusted in you. Lett my lord Lovel come to grace; then that ye show him that he pray for me. And uncle John! remember my soule, as ye have done my body, and better.' Dugd. Warw. 789. There are some expressions in this extract, of attachment to Henry, which make it doubtful if even Catesby was, at last, faithful to Richard.

¹³⁵ The report, given the next day, to the corporation of York, is thus entered in their

register. 'On 23d August, it was showed by divers persons, especially by John Spon, sent unto the field of Redmore for tidings, that king Richard, through the *great treason* of the duke of Norfolk, and many others, *that turned against him*, was, with many other lords nobility of the north parts, piteously slain and murdered, to the great heaviness of this city.' Drake's Ebor. p. 121. The name of Norfolk has got inserted instead of Northumberland and the Stanleys.

HISTORY

OF

ENGLAND.

CHAP. V.

REVIEW OF THE CHARACTER, LAWS, CAUSES OF UNPOPULARITY, KINDNESSES, TASTES, AMUSEMENTS AND FOREIGN TRADE, OF RICHARD III.

BOOK
III.

THE confession of our old chroniclers, who so little favor Richard, that if he had continued to be lord protector only, and to have suffered his nephew to have lived and reigned, “the realm would have prospered; and he would have been as much praised and beloved, as he is now abhorred and despised¹”; and the declaration of lord Bacon, who has adopted every prejudice against him, that he was yet a king “jealous for the honor of the English nation²,” are expressive panegyrics, which imply that he must have had some merits, that are inconsistent with that general abuse, by which our elder historians, and their modern copyists, have uniformly defamed him. Even the philosopher of Verulam, instead of calmly stating to us, his laudable qualities and actions, has contented himself with declaring, that “his cruelties and parricides, in the opinion of all men, weighed down his virtues³”; thus admitting the existence of what he will not particularize; and he is even so unkind to his memory, as to give the

¹ Grafton, 853.² Bacon's Hist. Henry VII. p. 2.³ Ib.

the king no credit for the reality of what he felt that he possessed ; for he adds, that wise men thought these virtues not to be “ ingenerate,” but “ forced and affected⁴.” So that whatever worth Richard possessed or displayed, he is the only king of England, of whom we are to believe, that nothing which seemed good in him could be genuine; but that he must have been altogether and unceasingly, that “ malicious, envious, and deep dissembling” demon, which More and Polydore Virgil⁵ have, rather passionately, depicted. Even the little habit of “ biting continually his under lip, when in deep thought⁶, is considered by the latter, to be the mark of a ferocious nature, a human wild beast; as if some of the most harmless and best-principled of men have not had the same habit, or customs as terrific, of knitting, unconsciously, the brow into stern frowns; or of cutting or biting their nails, till the blood has issued, while absorbed in profound and interesting contemplation. Bacon himself lived to know and prove, that a great and noble mind may, by circumstances, be led to commit some obnoxious deeds, without lessening the merit and utility of many virtues, and of a beneficial life. And Richard may justly complain, if his voice could be heard from his bespattered tomb, that his good actions were written in water, but that his bad ones have been engraved on monumental brass. The first have been so studiously covered with oblivion, that we can only imperfectly trace them now, by catching some gleams of a light that has been repressed; or by inferences and conjectures, from the few materials which time has spared. The latter have been blazoned with a vituperation, which does more honor to the feeling than to the judgment of our historical censors.

It is the moral feelings of mankind which he outraged, by one flagitious catastrophe, that has consigned Richard to their indiscriminating detestation. He loved, he courted, the applause of his

⁴ Bacon's Hist. Henry VII. p. 2. ⁵ More, p. 154. Pol. V. 565. ⁶ Pol. V. 565.

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—

his people. He exerted himself to deserve it; and his intelligence, penetration, activity, temperance, patronage of the rising arts, encouragement of commerce, moral demeanor, attention to religion, and desire to reform the abuses of law and power, that were afflicting the country, were calculated to have produced great celebrity to himself, and lasting advantages to the nation. But, by basing his throne on principles which shook every man's safety and comfort, no merit and no benefit could compensate for the moral evil which would have followed through society, if he could have obtained a peaceful and triumphant reign. He had linked his name and reign with every parent's dread of the chances of evil, from elder kinsmen to fatherless children, which his successful example had created. We expect selfishness, competition, and danger from strangers; but the heart takes refuge in the bosom of natural kinship, as a consecrated home of unquestionable honor and security, if not of affection. We rely on nature as our pledge, that here we shall not be deceived nor disappointed, whatever fraud or violence may be agitating society beyond the circle of our affinity. But till mankind were taught, by Richard's downfall, that such unnatural crimes ended in a discomfiture so signal and unexpected as to seem to be judicial, selfishness was losing its curb, and the ties of nature their most commanding security. When he fell a just victim to the safety of the orphan, the ward, the kinsman, and the minor king, human confidence regained its assurance, and society its sweetest feeling, and most important comfort; but yet his fate, however useful, has been peculiar.

Several kings have reigned, even in England, under circumstances that also called for the moral indignation of the country, who were neither deserted nor deposed like Richard III. Henry I. took the throne, against the right of an elder brother, whom he blinded, and imprisoned till he died, if he did not produce his death⁷. John seized his nephew's throne, and caused him to be murdered.

⁷ See volume I. of this History, p. 156, 167.

murdered⁸. Edward III. came to his crown on the deposition of his father, who was soon after put to death⁹. Richard II. and Henry IV. were the sons of two brothers, yet Henry deprived him of his sceptre; and permitted, if he did not authorize his assassination¹⁰. All these kings reigned, till a natural death without violence introduced new accessions.

CHAP.
V.

Why then, we may ask, was Richard so peculiarly obnoxious? Did the difference arise, from his age being an era of distinguished virtue? If we look among the great and well-born at that time, we see rapacity, violence, perjury, rebellion, treachery, and unbridled revenge and licentiousness, always before us. Besides his public conduct, as king, which his enemies have extolled, his liberality to his friends was bounded only, by his means of giving at last failing from the abundance of his favors. This fact does not rest merely on the general phrases in the chronicler¹¹; but in the register of his grants, that still remain, we see numerous pardons; annuities to all classes, and of all sums from 2,000*l.* down to twenty shillings, from earls and lords, to yeomen, priests, and anchoresses¹²; perpetual gifts of manors, lands, honors, offices, and pecuniary presents; exemptions from taxes and fines; and several remissions from forfeitures, and revocations of outlawries¹³. The amount of these donations, in a two years' reign, appears to have no parallel; and yet conspiracies multiplied against him

Ingratitude to
Richard.

⁸ See vol. I. of this History, p. 339.

⁹ See vol. II. p. 123—5.

¹⁰ *Ib.* p. 251, 260.

¹¹ More, after calling him 'malicious and envious,' adds, that he was 'free of dispense, and, above his power, liberal.' p. 154. I am not aware, that the malicious and envious are unusually liberal, or freely spending their wealth. The latter qualities are inconsistent with the preceding epithets.

¹² See the valuable Harl. MSS. N° 433, which contains extracts, or copies, of a great

quantity of these grants of annuities. I began to select them, but I found them too numerous to be inserted here. Among these are anchoresses; one in Pomfret, p. 28; and one at Westminster, p. 41. Their annuities were, forty shillings, and six marks. To lord Surrey, I observe two annuities, of 1,000*l.* and 1,100*l.*

¹³ See the same MS. It contains from 2,000 to nearly 2,500 official documents, (for all of them are not noticed in the printed catalogue) most of which are the king's beneficial grants.

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III.

him during his life, and execration ever since. Those who had partaken of his generosities; the Stanleys¹⁴, Northumberland¹⁵, Kidwelly, the Savages, both father and son¹⁶; the Talbots, Hungerford, Bouchier, and many others, not only abandoned, but took the field against him; and became the persons who, by their combination only, deprived him both of dominion and life. Their hostility shows that he had not the art of conciliating personal attachment among his nobility: he was feared, not loved. Most of those who overwhelmed him, were in offices of his household, nearly attached to his person; and yet, like Darius, he was "deserted at his utmost need, by those his former bounty fed;" he did not fall, but was thrown by them, from his high estate. It is obvious that he was unpopular with the great, who, though their prototype, the renowned earl of Warwick, was no more, could still, like him, make and unmake kings in England.

It is probable, that our great aversion to him has arisen from our throwing back, all the elder crimes into barbarous times where, believing all to be dark and savage, we look for no moral sympathies, and are not injured by their bad examples. But Richard, belonged to an age, that was emerging into light and civilized life. Moral criticism was gaining a welcomed existence, and began to look, discriminatingly around. Men have been since, no longer

¹⁴ *Lord Stanley* was made constable of England. Harl. MS. p. 28. An annuity of 100*l.* was granted to him, p. 31; many castles, lordships, and manors, p. 70; and farms, 82. Castle and lordship of Kimbolton, 120. *Sir William Stanley* was knight of the body, and chamberlain of the county of Chester. ib. p. 115. Several annuities were given to him, p. 32—40; the constablenesship of Carnarvon, p. 45; several castles, towns, and lordships, p. 88; the lordship of Thornbury, 122.

¹⁵ To Northumberland, besides the Great Powney estate, Richard also granted the

lordship of Holderness; Harl. MS. p. 31; and many manors, lordships, lands and offices, in various counties; ib. p. 43; and to the Percys, his kinsmen, several lordships and annuities. Ib. 43, 58.

¹⁶ Grants occur, in this MS. to Savage the younger, as well as to his father; as, an annuity of 40 marcs, p. 31; the ward and marriage of an heir, p. 102, &c. The desertion of sir John Savage, the day before the battle, must have been very detrimental to Richard, as Richmond was advised to give him the command of one of his wings, in the battle.

longer estimated for wealth or title, but according to conduct and principle; and hence, Richard, notwithstanding his shining crown and robes, has been considered but as the murderer of his orphaned nephews: and this fact has driven into oblivion, all the rest, however laudable, of his conduct.

But we may now safely censure the criminal, without injustice to the man or to the king. Let us then review, dispassionately, the whole of his mixed character. Our Shakspeare has fixed a gloomy celebrity, as durable as his own genius, upon him. It will be, therefore, no unworthy task, if we endeavor to contemplate him, in his fair proportions of authentic history.

That Richard during his life, endeavored to make the “amende honorable” to society, by repenting of his great crime, and by showing the world that he did so, instead of proudly and stubbornly denying, or vindicating it, in defiance of human censure, has been already intimated¹⁷; and so notorious was his indication of these feelings, that he is represented, as having told his army, on the morning of his disastrous battle; “although in the adoption or obtaining of the garland, I was seduced and provoked by sinister counsel, to commit a detestable act; yet, I trust I have, by strait penance and salt tears, purged the offence. This abominable crime, I require you, of friendship, as clearly to forget, as I daily do remember to lament the same¹⁸”.

Richard's
repentance.

But though this obvious remorse may have pleased and satisfied many, it could not, by the public at large, be deemed true or sufficient, while he continued to profit by his crime. He never threw down the crown and sceptre and royal robes, as evidence of his interior compunction, or as an atonement to society for his bad example. He resolved to live king and to die king; and he kept his diadem as continually upon his head, as if it had been his palladium and paradise; instead of viewing it as the radiant tempter,

¹⁷ See before, p. 545.

¹⁸ Grafton, 846.

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tempter, which had seduced and degraded him. He could not, therefore, have been compassionated as the humbled, heart-broken and sorrowing penitent, regretting that, by one foul action, he had sullied a heart that could feel, and a soul that aspired to better wishes and deeds. His continual ostentatious display of his crown and full regal state, to his last hour, prove, that if he experienced remorse, for having murdered his nephew, he never repented that he had seized his crown; nor could any one suppose, that he would have recalled Edward V. into life, if he had possessed the power, upon the terms of abandoning his heart-loved dignity; and yet it became every day more evident, that he could not keep it without new bloodshed and severities, from the hostility that rose against him. He chose to commit these additional, though not illegal violences, and to reign; and, therefore, his penitential agitations were but indications of a spirit, formed for worthier things, yet incapable of sacrificing ambition to virtue, and self-doting pride to honor or duty—to man or to God. He preferred, and in the very crisis of the mortal agony, when the alternative of flight and life was offered him, and even true friendship had lost its hope of altering this result, he declared, that he preferred death to dethronement; and he fought and perished, as he had so much lived, with the guilty crown upon his brow.

That Buckingham and Catesby, at different intervals, for their own purposes, goaded his high self-estimating egotism to usurp the crown, was both known and believed. Some may have discerned, that if he had not attained it, he might have perished from the violence of others; and hence, have allowed that safety, vanity, and persuasion, led him to his crime, and that to his fate. But mankind are too experienced, and too jealous of their social welfare, to allow it to be to any one an excuse for crime, to say, that he was tempted to commit it; we all feel, that a man must tempt himself, before he can be successfully tempted by others; where the previous self-seduction has not occurred, the offered inducement

to

to wrong, is resisted as soon as proposed. The honorable bosom spurns dishonor. The hesitating dally with it, till it masters them. It is by coinciding with the secret wish and beginning hope, that it prevails, not so much as a seducing tempter, but as a welcomed auxiliary. Buckingham and Catesby would have urged Richard in vain, if the previous inclination of his egotism had not given persuasion to their voice, and a listening ear to their counsel.

There is no good evidence, that Richard was, from the beginning planning for the crown; but it is not improbable, that he was secretly envying its possessor, and wishing that he had been as fortunately born. The wish may at last have been father to the act.

One public method which Richard took to express his penitence, and appease his own remorse, though it might please the church and its less enlightened supporters, and suited his own prepossessions, and the religious fashion of the day, was certain of dissatisfying many. He directed 1,000 masses to be said for his brother¹⁹; and he now went to the expense of founding 100 singing priests at York, to chant for mercy upon himself²⁰. So at Northampton, the place where he had arrested Rivers, his first act of wrong, he paid a priest to sing for him²¹. At Sheriff's Hutton, where he had imprisoned Rivers, we find another chantery priest of our Lady chapel

¹⁹ He signed a warrant for paying the friars of Richmond 12 marcs, and 6s. 8d. for these masses, at York, 27 May 1484. Harl. MS. p. 176.

²⁰ Rous mentions this, p. 216; and the grants about it are in the Harl. MS. p. 72, 80, 90, &c. He had an early taste for this species of expiation; for when he petitioned his brother, as king, in full parliament, on the partition, with Clarence, of his wife's property, and for leave to grant in mortmain, he added, 'And I, your said suppliant, purpose to edify, found, endowe, and make a college, of a dean,

and twelve priests, to sing and pray for the prosperous estate of you, sovereign lord, the queen, *your issue*, and my lady and mother: the welfare of me, Anne my wife, and my issue, while we live in this present world, and for the souls of us when we be departed out of this world; the souls of my lord my father, my brethren and sisters, and of all Christian souls!' Rolls Parl. 6, p. 172.

²¹ 'Warrant to pay 10 marks, yearly, to sir John Perty, to sing for the king, in a chapel before the holy rood at Northampton,' dated 28 March 1484. Harl. MS. 168.

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chapel there, allowed ten pounds a year for his salary²². Others were paid for singing elsewhere²³. The king's anxiety for his future state, or for the better opinion of his contemporaries, urged him also to endow a dean and several canons at Berking²⁴; and to rebuild a house and chapel, for an anchoress at Pomfret²⁵, the town where the queen's brother and son were beheaded. A pilgrimage to St. James, of Galicia in Spain, being, at this time, in great vogue²⁶ for its anodyne effects, the king licensed sir Bryan Stapelton and a chaplain, to go over, "and there to fulfil certain his vows and pilgrimages²⁷."

But although, two centuries before him, acts like these might have been deemed sufficient expiation for sins; and have even procured for him the character of a pious prince, they then must have revolted as many as they satisfied. The new spirit that was pervading every part of England in religion, already thought that there was too much singing, and too little edification in the chapels and cathedrals; and deemed pilgrimages worse than useless²⁸. Many inheritors of the new wisdom of Wickliffe, were teaching, that as it was the duty and the interest of guilt to be penitent; and as the regretting offender would find it sweet and balmy, to be so; yet that rites, sighs, tears, phrases, gifts, masses, alms, chanting, pilgrimages, and all the mechanical drama of bodily sorrow, were not to be substituted for that self-condemning humiliation for the crime, and that deposition of the splendid advantages, for which it had been committed, which Richard's spirit could never brooke. It was becoming obvious, that if a theatrical compromise

²² The order to pay him 100 shillings, for half a year, is dated Windsor, 15 Jan. 1485. MS. ib. 201.

²³ P. 217; p. 166. It seems to have been a great fashion to found chantries; for several, established by other persons, are mentioned, in this MS; as one by the chief justice of the king's bench, p. 30; by the bishop, the tutor of Edward V. p. 79; and by other persons, p. 34, 49, 95, 100, 208, &c.

²⁴ Harl. MS. p. 102, 104. ²⁵ Ib. p. 193.

²⁶ See several commissions for ships, with these pilgrims, in the Harl. MS. p. 171, 172, 175, &c.

²⁷ Ib. 143. Dated 23 Jan. 1484. The letter of recommendation for Thomas Rouloat, 'who hath vowed to doo diverse and many pilgrimages within this realm,' 29 Jan. 1484, looks like a deputy for the king. Ib. p. 146.

²⁸ See before, p. 214, 218.

compromise of this sort could be effectual, crime would be as frequent as the inclination to enjoy its fruits; and earth would become uninhabitable. Hence, Richard was, by many, but more suspected of hypocrisy, for his penitential actions. This was hard measure; but it was natural. He could not be wiser than the legal and established directors of the conscience of his age. They taught the delusive theory of the benefit of ceremonial penance; and built their affluence upon its belief; and he, like all his contemporaries, who did not adopt the new opinions of the Lollards, cherished the doctrine of purchaseable expiation and ritual penitence; and would have deemed it heresy, worse than his own misdeeds, to have questioned their efficaciousness. Yet, who could accredit his sincerity, while he wore his blood-earned crown!

Another of the means, by which Richard endeavored to manifest his repentance, to atone for his crime, and to regain the good opinion of society, was, by becoming an active instrument to suppress vice in his kingdom, in all classes; and to urge them to rectitude and morality. On the 10th of March 1484, he addressed a circular letter to all his bishops²⁹. In this he mentions, “our principal intent and fervent desire is, to see virtue and cleanness of living to be advanced, increased and multiplied; and vices, and all other things repugnant to virtue, provoking the displeasure of God, to be repressed and annulled; and this, *perfectly followed*, and put in execution, *by persons of high estate*, pre-eminence and dignity, not only induces persons of lower degree, to take thereof ensample, and to ensure the same³⁰.”—He adds, “and as it is notarily known, that in every jurisdiction, as well in their pastoral care, as other, *there be many*, as well of the *spiritual* party, as of the temporal,

²⁹ Harl. MS. p. 281.

³⁰ He also subjoins, I think, with an allusion to his private deprecating supplications, ‘but also thereby, the great and infinite goodness

of God is made placable, and graciously inclined to the *exaudition of our petitions and prayers.*’ Ib.

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temporal, delyring from the true way of virtue and good living, to the pernicious example of others, and lothsomeness of every well-disposed people;—WE, therefore, desire and require you, that according to the charge of your profession, ye see, within the authority of your jurisdiction, all such persons as set apart virtue, and promote the damnable execution of sin and vices, to be reformed, repressed and punished; not sparing for any love or favor, whether the offender be temporal or spiritual³¹.”

With this avowed desire of impartial reformation, when he visited Kent, he published a patriotic proclamation, in which he stated, “the king’s highness is fully determined to see administration of justice to be had throughout his realm, and to reform and punish all extortion and oppressions in the same. Therefore, he wills, at his coming into Kent, that every person dwelling therein, that findeth himself grieved, oppressed or unlawfully wronged, make a bill of his complaint, and put it to his highness; and he shall be heard; and without delay, have such convenient remedy as shall accord with the laws.” He adds, “for his grace is utterly determined, that all his true subjects shall live in rest and quiet, and peaceably enjoy their lands and goods according to the laws. He therefore chargeth, that no man, of whatever condition, trouble, hurt, or spoil any of his said subjects, or their bodies or goods, on pain of death; that none make or contrive quarrels; nor take any victuals without paying for them, nor vex any farmer, &c.³².”

On these principles he also acted, when on receiving information that a constable had been grievously maimed at Gloucester, by three riotous gentlemen, he dispatched a mandate from London, on the 6th of December 1484, directing the imprisonment of the

³¹ Harl. MS. p. 281.

³² Harl. MS. This, and the preceding, have been printed in the notes to Kennet’s Hist. V. 1. p. 576. So, in his proclamation for the apprehension of several who had taken

arms against him, he declared his intent to administer strict justice to all his subjects: and forbidding several evil practices. MS. ib. p. 128.

the assailants; and prohibiting retainers, liveries and their insignia, which united men into bands, following great leaders³³. He even extended his reforms to the offices of his ministers; and would not allow their minor situations to be purchased, to the prejudice of the fair system of rising by seniority³⁴.

These were all laudable acts, beneficial to his subjects, and fairly announcing his own desire to contribute to the happiness and to increase the morality of his people; but they were not likely, as he was circumstanced, to add to his popularity. Reformation of political grievances, whether real or imaginary, is always a source of reputation, because it affects the distant government, with which few are in immediate contact; while it leaves the individual critic and supporter untouched. But reformation of the private conduct and manners is never popular, unless it originates from the most unquestionable and commanding virtue. It interferes too much with our daily habits, tempers, interests, pursuits, amusements, and inclinations, to be cordially welcomed; and from a man of one great and known crime, would be always suspected to be hypocrisy and art. The rudest mind could say, what all would feel, "Murderer of your nephews! do you preach to us!" And when the powerful found him to be repressing their injustice and oppressions, would they not think or ask; What wrongs they had done or could do, which he had not exceeded! They could but seize lands or goods, or one heiress, maid, or widow; but he had usurped from its lawful possessor a throne; and even while he lectured and coerced them, was only able to do so, by keeping the mighty spoil which he had seized. Hypocrisy would be the general charge upon him for all his efforts, however sincere, to produce those moral amendments in society, by which he

³³ Harl. MS. p. 127.

³⁴ Thus, he ordered a person to be discharged 'from his place in the office of the privy seal, to which he had been admitted by giving of great gifts, and other sinister

and ungodly ways, to the great discouraging of the under-clerks, which have long continued therein, to see a stranger, never brought up in the said office; put them by from their promotion.' MS. ib. p. 123.

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a tyrant.

he endeavored to atone for his own errors. He had brought himself into the dilemma, that all his wrong actions would be deemed tyrannical, and his good ones hypocritical; and this evil has pursued his memory, as it abridged his life.

The strong outcry of tyranny, which has been raised against Richard, and under reigns, when the liberties of the subject were not much respected, seems to have arisen not so much from actual cruelties committed, which in common language, convert a king into a tyrant, but rather from those severe and repeated exertions of legal power, by which he endeavored to crush and extinguish discontent³⁵. Not exceeding some former precedents of kingly authority, he often used its antient privileges, with a precipitation³⁶, a frequency, a publicity, an unqualified display, and a rigorous impartiality, which, though not contrary to the prior and permitted practice of the crown, was justly becoming offensive to the improving reason, the more observing sense of justice, the rising prosperity, and the wanted privileges of the nation. Arbitrary government, even for good purposes, was neither expedient nor palatable. No one desired to abase the local despotisms of the aristocracy, to set up that of the monarchy instead. Hence, when Richard sent his mandates to seize ships, mariners, soldiers, artificers, artists, victuals, materials, conveyances and goods, whenever he wanted them for his purposes, public or private³⁷;—when he,

³⁵ Thus, when after the rebellion in the west, he indicted four persons of distinction, as principals in treason, and above five hundred others, as accessories, of whom only two were taken and suffered, and the rest fled, he is said, by the chronicler, to have 'tyrannically persecuted them.' *Holling.* 746. It was unwise severity, but not tyranny.

³⁶ Thus, he beheaded Buckingham, without arraignment or judgment. *Holling.* 744. Edward IV. and queen Margaret did so with many revolting nobles.

³⁷ As 'Warrant to aid and assist the king's clerk and counsellor, A. L. in taking up all

vitaille, souldours, mariners, artificers, labourers, carts, boats, and all other stuff; as horses, waynes, and all such timber and stones as he shall think necessary, for the king's use;' dated 31 July 1485. *Harl. MS.* p. 179. And 'Warrant to aid and assist J. P. in taking up, at the king's price, suche and as many mariners, souldours, &c. to do the king service in certayne of his shippes; and vitaille, and other things behoveful for the same;' dated Scarborough, 30 June 1484. *Ib.* These kind of mandates abound in this volume, and for all kinds of purposes.

he, even in his earnestness to have proper persons in the provincial magistracies, charged the bailiffs, &c. of Tamworth, to have no regard to a custom of chusing their bailiffs out of their burgesses and freeholders, but to regard the suffisaunce of the person's goods only³⁸;—when in pursuance of his habit of acting vigorously, on the first moment of any alarm, he signed a command to assist a yeoman of the crown, in attacking certain persons in sundry places of the west parts of England, “which he detected of certain things that they should do and attempt, against their natural duty and liegance³⁹;” when what he wanted for gunpowder, was thus forcibly taken⁴⁰, the nation was displeased at this peremptory use of the royal authority. So his quick and immediate pursuit and orders to seize all who attempted any insurrections against him; and his unhesitating confiscation and granting away their possessions, without waiting for legal sentences or parliamentary attainders, occasioned great reprobation to him⁴¹. The number of respectable men, crowded into one proclamation, startled the reader; and by such formidable enmity being displayed, his own government was arraigned and endangered⁴². His policy outshot its

³⁸ Harl. MS. p. 190; dated at Nottingham, 12 Oct. 1484.

³⁹ Harl. MSS. p. 189.

⁴⁰ ‘Warrant to assist J. C. yeoman of the crown, to take, in the king's name, all manner of stuff necessary for making of certain great stuff of gunpowder, which John Bramburgh, a stranger-born, had covenanted with the king to make for him; and for the same to agree and make prices with the owners.’ 28 Jan. 1484, p. 145.

⁴¹ There are many commissions and warrants of this sort, in the Harl. MS.; as those to lord Stanley, to seize, to the king's use, the lands of St. Leger, p. 134; others, to seize the lands and goods of sir W. Brandon, 143; of bishop Morton, 137; sir Roger Tocot, 145; and a great many more. They were sometime so general, as ‘Warrant for the delivery of all manner of sheep, horses,

oxen, kine, swyne, and other cattle, to the king, appertaining by the forfeiture of his rebels and traitors, within the counties of Somerset and Dorset;’ 6 Jan. 1484, p. 137; and ‘Warrant for selling the hay and corn, except wheat, of the said rebels,’ 138. What a latitude for oppression, in the execution of these mandates, must there have been!

⁴² Thus, a proclamation was issued for the taking of sir John Gilforde, sir Thomas Lewknor, sir William Hawte, sir William Cheyney, Richard Gilforde, Reynold Pympe, sir Edward Poynings, sir Thomas Fenys, sir William Brandon, John Wingfelde, Anthony Kene, Nicholas Gaynesforde, and *several others*, the king's rebels and traitors; offering 300 marks, or 10*l.* of land, for taking any of the first six, and 100*l.* or ten marks of land, for any of the rest. Harl. MS. p. 128.

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its own object, in confessing, that so many men of their character and importance, had combined against him. The number of thinking minds and feeling hearts, which began to perceive what good government ought to be, and of what evils this manner of ruling would be productive, were increasing every year. They perceived, that such despotic powers were grievances, which no temporary benefit ought to sanction; and as Richard, by ever moving in the shortest path to his desired ends, was repeatedly enforcing them, the charge of tyranny was fastened upon his reign; and by the useful clamor, many future repetitions of it have been prevented. If England were ever to be free and prosperous, it was certainly time that such mandates of state, should be discountenanced and disused. His use of them, had the unintended merit of making former oppressions discreditable; and showed to all administrations, that power reigns more safely by concealing than by displaying its own extent⁴³.

His forced
loans and
laws.

Our ablest lawyers have acknowledged, that his statutes were wise and useful. In the enactment, that his subjects should be no more charged by the exactions or impositions called Benevolencies⁴⁴, a mode of raising money without parliament, he gratified the country. But although unfortunately for himself, he destroyed his own popularity, and irritated the country, by having recourse, in his future exigencies, to the very measure he had abrogated; it is probable, that like all our sovereigns who have attempted to obtain supplies, by exerting their prerogative, he was afraid to
summon

⁴³ One instance, how unfairly Richard has been charged with tyranny, appears in the imputation transmitted by More, and copied by all, that he had Collingbourne executed for a satirical distich. See before, p. 494. But the truth was, that this man was arraigned for treasonable offences. His indictment states, that, about the 18th July 1484, he had offered another 8*l.* to go to Richmond and Dorset in Bretagne, and urge them to invade England, before St. Luke's day, to get

the revenues due at Michaelmas; and to assure them, that, if Richmond would land at Poole, he, and others, would cause the people to rise in arms for him. Also, to advise Richmond to send Cheney, to inform the French king, that Richard meant only to dally with his ambassadors till the winter was over, and then to attack France; and therefore, that it was Charles's interest to aid Richmond immediately. Holling. 746.

⁴⁴ Stat. of Realm, V. 2, p. 478.

summon a parliament, when discontent increased upon him. He was too liberal, to be personally rapacious; for when the corporations of London, Gloucester and Worcester, offered him money, he magnanimously refused it, telling them he would rather have their hearts, than their property⁴⁵. There was nothing mean or sordid about him. But having emptied his exchequer by his bounties to men, who were enabled by his own generosity, more effectually to betray him; and pressed by Richmond's impending invasion and the domestic conspiracies which it excited, he allowed himself to use his power to extort money on the plea of necessity—the tyrant plea—which contributed to fix that character upon him, and its consequential evils⁴⁶.

Besides some beneficial regulations on those important modes of transferring landed property, which are called fines and feoffments, and others, to rectify abuses in the petty but useful temporary courts called Pie-powdre, held during fairs; besides annulling certain patents to Edward's queen; and some statutes on manufactures and trade⁴⁷; he sanctioned three most serviceable enactments for the relief of his subjects, from the oppressions of their superiors. One was, that on arrest for suspicion of felony, every justice of the peace should have power to bail⁴⁸; another, that the property of persons imprisoned for felony, should not be seized before conviction⁴⁹; a law, which in treason, his own conduct sometimes counteracted; and the third, which directed that none should be returned for juries, but those who had forty shillings a-year freehold; because so many untrue verdicts had been given by persons "of no substance or behaviour, and not dreading God or worldly shame:" and thereby several had, through the excitation of their evil willers, been wrongfully indicted, and others improperly spared⁵⁰. It was the weakness of Richard's mind, to let

⁴⁵ We learn this from Rouse, Hist. p. 216.

⁴⁶ More says, that, being 'obliged to pill and spoil in other places, this got him *steadfast hatred*.' p. 154.

⁴⁷ Stat. Realm, V. 2, p. 477, 480—498.

⁴⁸ Ib. 478.

⁴⁹ Ib. 479.

⁵⁰ Ib.

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let the urgencies of the moment defeat the provisions of his deliberate judgment. His good laws⁵¹ gave the people that knowledge and taste of a better system, which made them resent, more indignantly, his own subsequent breaches of it; as he then assumed a dispensing right, which no common sense could approve.

While such masses of military retainers and badged followers obeyed the orders of the great nobility and gentry, it was of small avail to a king to be popular among the nation, if the aristocracy were either indifferent or averse to him. Till the full use of artillery made armor either useless or prejudicial to its wearers, none could stand in battle against them, who were without it, or who had not learnt to act in it with strength and agility, or who were not powerful in archery. Hence, the common population who had not been trained by a due military education, were but a mob, that was sure to be broken as soon as attacked; and this state of warfare made the antient aristocracy of the country the terror of the crown, whenever its feelings united against the reigning sovereign.

His repression of the retinue of the great.

It was the number of followers which the nobility and gentry retained or could assemble and exhibit, under the family insignia of their crest or other device, which gave them the power of thus endangering the throne, and of doing much sudden mischief, and many oppressions. To abate this evil in the country, Richard was steady in discountenancing the antient custom of giving liveries, badges, ensigns, cognizances or other distinctive clothing or ornaments to any. He issued several prohibitions of this sort, very necessary to the peace and improvement of the country, but very displeasing to those who had the means of conferring what they could make so useful to their violences. The sheriffs of various counties, and mayors of various cities and towns, were instructed to forbid both the granting or wearing this dangerous costume, and

⁵¹ But as Richard could gain no favor for any thing, even 'his politic and wholesome laws,' Bacon says, and without a word of counteraction, 'were interpreted to be but the brocage of an usurper, thereby to woo and win the hearts of the people.' Hist. Hen. VII.

and also the receiving them from any person whomsoever⁵². This was an attack on the pride and power of the great and rich, as bold as it was patriotic⁵³. But all his measures to lessen their oppressions, although wise of themselves, and kind to the people at large, necessarily displeased the aristocracy; and may be considered as a far more active cause of its enmity against him, than their moral sympathies on his nephews' fate. No class surrenders accustomed power, without enmity to the hand that exacts the loss. In these public benefits of Richard, we see the real cause of his unpopularity with the higher orders. Hence, his reign is truly characterised by Polydore Virgil, in two words, "*nobilium defectionem*," the disaffection of his nobility⁵⁴. He was becoming too good a king, to suit their interests; and yet his life might have given the crown a disproportionate authority instead. The constitutional balance was perhaps best maintained, by the events that were permitted or directed to occur.

His fastidious use and display of his regal state, revealed too large a personal vanity, to create attachment⁵⁵. Every one has too much of this weakness, to endure it from another; and as the pomp of Richard was too expensive for the less affluent of the gentry, and too self-prominent, not to make the wealthier feel a great comparative diminution in his presence, it increased, instead of abating, his personal unpopularity. He seems to have discovered the

⁵² See Harl. MS. p. 111, 138, 210, 188, and many other places. One example may suffice. The mayor of Bedford was commanded to make open proclamation, that none of the inhabitants take or receive any retainers, liveries, clothings, or cognizance, of any person whatsoever; 26 Sept. 1484. p. 188.

⁵³ Ib. Lord Bacon admits, that he was 'a good lawyer for the ease and solace of the common people.' Hist. p. 2.

⁵⁴ Pol. Virg. 565.

⁵⁵ His wardrobe, and love of finery, has been already noticed. He gave his queen

4 $\frac{1}{2}$ yards of purple cloth of gold, upon damask. Harl. MS. p. 130. He licensed a merchant of Genoa to bring to England, 'dyamount and other gemmys, or pretious stones, that if they be for the king's pleasure, he may have the first purchase thereof *before all other*.' 9 Dec. 1484. Ib. He authorized alderman Shaw to bring out of France, &c. 'all manner of gold and silver, and pretious stones, without paying custom.' Ib. p. 210. These were apparently for the king. Divers pieces of his rich plate are mentioned in the receipt for them, p. 212, to be used in the north.

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III.

His conduct
towards the
church.

the impropriety of his long desertion of his metropolis, for he was chiefly in it during the last twelve months of his life⁵⁶.

His position, as to the church establishment, compelled him to make enemies, whatever course of conduct he should adopt. To shield it, was to dissatisfy all those who desired a participation of its wealth, a reduction of its luxury, a relaxation of its doctrinal despotism, and a diminution of its temporal powers; and who would expect an usurped reign to be most adverse to antient bigotry. To favor the opponents of the possessed church, was to ensure its enmity; and even his warlike brother, who at first inclined against it; had at length bent, from his love of ease and quiet, to its power. In September, he may have still hesitated⁵⁷; but on the 2d of October 1484, he publicly showed, that he had decided to uphold it, for he issued a mandate, commanding that twenty acres of pasture, which had been taken from the convent at Pomfret, should be restored to it; and he took the occasion to tell the nation in it, that he had called "to remembrance the dreadful sentence of the church against all those persons, who wilfully attempt to *usurp unto themselves, against good conscience,* possessions or other things of right belonging to the church; and the great peril of soul which might ensue by the same⁵⁸." It is extraordinary, that he should so far forget his own usurpation, as to suppose that this language could have any other effect than to make its readers indignant at its hypocrisy, or self-delusion, and to ensure its being contemptuously retorted upon himself.

Whether he felt this result, cannot be affirmed; but he seems to have paused awhile on this subject, though he received the archbishop of Canterbury into his favor, in the December following⁵⁹.

In

⁵⁶ Excepting one short excursion to Canterbury, in November 1484, and occasional visits to Windsor, in December, January, February, April and May, he was in the metropolis from the beginning of November 1484, to the June preceding his fall, as appears by the grants in the Harl. MS.

⁵⁷ On the 23d of September 1484, he seized on the bishop of Salisbury's temporalities. Harl. MS. p. 117.

⁵⁸ Harl. MS. 121.

⁵⁹ On the 8th of December 1484, he stated this to his grace's tenants, and ordered them to pay him their rents. Ib. 128.

In February 1484, the clergy of England met in convocation; and from that, addressed to him a petition, complaining that churchmen were cruelly, grievously, and daily troubled, vexed, indicted and arrested; drawn out of church, and without due reverence, even from the altar, by malicious and evil-disposed persons, notwithstanding all the censures, anathematizations and curses, yearly promulgated and fulminated by the holy father the pope, and in all the churches of England; so that they could not be resident on their benefices, to execute duly and devoutly their office⁶⁰.

This complaint shows, that both the law and the laity were steadily attacking the ecclesiastical property and privileges.

They proceed to express to him, a most emphatical compliment, some months after the circulated account of his nephews' deaths, which, as coming from the dignified representatives of the whole body of the English clergy, becomes a kind of sacred testimony to his character; it must either have been a phrase of the most consummate hypocrisy, or must be allowed to counterbalance, in no small degree, the defamation that has pursued him. They say, "In eschewing whereof, seeing your MOST NOBLE AND BLESSED DISPOSITION IN ALL OTHER THINGS, we beseech you to take tender respect and consideration unto the premises, and of yourself, as a most catholic prince, to see such remedies, that under your most gracious letters patents, the liberties of the church may be confirmed, and sufficiently authorized by your high court of Parliament, rather enlarged than diminished⁶¹."

The clergy appear to have persuaded him to become their patron and protector; for there is an official document addressed to them, declaring, that the king had confirmed all their liberties to them, as in their patent made by Edward IV⁶². He also released the dean of York and others, from paying tenths or fifteenths, during

⁶⁰ See the document in these words, in Wilk. Concil. V. 3, p. 614. The convocation met on the 3d of February 1484.

⁶¹ Wilk. Con. V. 3, p. 614.

⁶² Harl. MS. 44.

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during their lives⁶³; but it was not till the 1st of March 1484, that he wrote to pope Sextus IV. promising to do him obedience, by the bishop of St. David's; and excusing his not having done it before, on account of the conspiracies he had to suppress⁶⁴, although that of Buckingham's was ended in the October preceding. But now having fixed his determination to uphold the church as it was, he sent the prelate to him, as the ambassador of his submission; and solicited the pontiff to give a cardinal's hat to his bishop of Durham⁶⁵. In the following December, he sent both these bishops to give his obedience to the new pope Innocent IV⁶⁶. Yet, while he offended all the liberalizing minds of the country, by upholding the superstitions and systems, which so many wished to modify, he was soon compelled to alter his conduct; for in March 1485, we find him invading one of their most stoutly-claimed privileges, by issuing a warrant to take up sir Lewis Deyken, priest, for certain great murders, robberies, and other detestable offences, which he had committed⁶⁷; and in May such differences had arisen between him and St. Peter's chair, that he signed a commission, to examine if the pope's bull, sent into Guernsey, was hurtful to his interests⁶⁸.

Richard had so turned the eye of public criticism upon his actions, that he could do nothing that would be deemed unobjectionable, or that would not be objected to. Other sovereigns, by indolence, retiring conduct, or by management, put all the public responsibility of their conduct on their ministers; but Richard, unfortunately for himself, was so personally active, and so fond of showing that he was so, that he was supposed to do every thing; and therefore blamed for whatever occurred. He would have been more effectively and more safely the king, if he had striven less to be so; but he loved to feel his power, and to exert it

⁶³ Harl. MS. 53.⁶⁴ Rym. Fed. 12, p. 214; and Harl. MS.⁶⁵ Ib. p. 216.⁶⁶ Rym. Fed. 12. p. 253.⁶⁷ Harl. MS. 210. This person seems to have escaped from Radnor castle; for there is a pardon to his keeper for it. Ib. 94.⁶⁸ Rym. Fed. 12, p. 269.

it himself, and to be seen to do so. He had too gross a sense of royalty. He did not confine himself to the interior and more exquisite enjoyment of it, which usually attends native and habitual greatness. He wanted the vulgar and animal gratification from it, which a man, raised suddenly from the dust to the throne, may be supposed to crave; but which the brother of a king, accustomed all his life to courtly splendor, ought neither to have valued nor demanded.

Without stretching flattery so far, as to assert that he had a most blessed disposition, some new facts may be adduced, to show that he was not an unnatural anomaly. His letter to his mother, after he became king, is expressed in an attentive and affectionate style⁶⁹. But the register of his official acts, shows many personal civilities to the ladies of his political enemies, from which, as they have never been noticed, he has not had his deserved praise. Although lord Oxford was his implacable enemy, to his last breath, yet he granted his lady a pension of 100*l.* a-year, during the earl's exile and hostility⁷⁰. To lady Hastings, the widow of the peer he had destroyed, he intrusted, with a generous magnanimity, the keeping of all her castles, and presented her with the wardship and marriage of her son and heir⁷¹; although this latter must have been a most valuable pecuniary favor, that many were suing for; and though it gave her the power of educating her son with the revengeful spirit of hostility against him: from this youth he

⁶⁹ It was written in June 1484. Harl. MS.

‘ Madam,

‘ I recommend me to you as heartily as is to me possible, beseeching you, in my most humble and affectuouse wise, of your daily blessing, to my singular comfort and defence in my need. And, madam, I heartily beseech you, that I may often hear from you, to my comfort. And such news as be here, my servant, Thomas Brian, this bearer, shall show you, to whom please it you to give credence unto.

‘ And, Madam, I beseech you to be good

and gracious lady to my lord, my chamberlain, to be your officer in Wiltshire, in such as Colingbourne had. I trust, he shall therein do you good service: and that, if it please you, by this bearer, I may understand your pleasure in this behalf. And I pray God send you the accomplishment of your noble desires.

‘ Written at Pomfret, the 3d day of June, with the hand of

‘ Your most humble son,

‘ Ricardus Rex.’

⁷⁰ Harl. MS. p. 53.

⁷¹ Ib. 27.

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he took off the attainder. Nothing could be a greater act of atoning kindness to her, and of liberal confidence, unless it was another official instrument, which he signed at Reading, on the 13th of July, a month after he had made her a widow, by which he covenanted to her to protect her and her children in all their possessions, wardships and other just rights; to suffer none to do them wrong, and to assist them upon all occasions, as their good and gracious sovereign lord⁷². Sir Thomas More says, that he loved Hastings. These documents prove an unusual regard, and great good feeling, that he should have taken such a zealous care of his family afterwards. To the widowed duchess of Buckingham, he gave an annuity of 200 marks⁷³. He sent her permission to come, with her servants and children, to London⁷⁴. He gave a safe guard to Florence, the wife of Alexander Cheyney; and expressed in it, that "for her good and virtuous disposition, he had taken her into his protection, and granted to her the custody of her husband's lands and property, though being confederated with certain rebels and traitors, he had intended and compassed the utter destruction of the king's person⁷⁵." He ordered the officers and tenants of the estates, which had been settled on lady Rivers, as her jointure, to pay to her all their rents and duties⁷⁶; and he took off the sequestration he had put on the lands of an outlaw, that his wife might have the benefit of them⁷⁷. He seems, by their number, to have taken pleasure in doing acts of good nature and courtesy to the female sex. He settled annuities on many widows, and other ladies⁷⁸. He paid one, the arrears of a pension given to her by Edward IV.⁷⁹, though future kings rarely heed their predecessors debts or bounties. He granted to lady Dynham four tons of wine yearly⁸⁰. He confirmed an annual allowance, which he had made as duke of Gloucester⁸¹; and settled a small one on the widow of an

⁷² Harl. MS. p. 108.

⁷³ Ib. 77.

⁷⁴ Ib. 126.

⁷⁵ Ib. 77.

⁷⁶ Ib. 135.

⁷⁷ Ib. 166.

⁷⁸ For many of these, see Harl. MS. p. 37, 41, 46, 58, 71, 76, 179, &c. &c.

⁷⁹ Ib. 205.

⁸⁰ Ib. 89.

⁸¹ Ib. 200.

an herald⁸²; and a larger one on the sister of lord Lovel⁸³. All these were acts of kindness, which, if he had been of that malicious, envious and brutal nature, which has been ascribed to him, he would not have performed. A gift to the monks of an abbey, burnt down⁸⁴; and to a merchant, towards his losses in trade⁸⁵; a protection for requiring alms to a man, whose dwelling-house and property, with his thirteen tenements, had been all consumed by fire, to his utter undoing; and his recommendation of him, as having kept a good household, by which many poor creatures had been refreshed⁸⁶; his payment of Buckingham's debts⁸⁷; and of the bishop of Exeter's, who pursued him with hostility to his last hour⁸⁸; and his commission to the hermit of the chapel of Reculver, that had been ordained for the burial of those who should perish by storms, to receive alms to rebuild its roof⁸⁹; the grant of an annuity, for good service done to his father⁹⁰;—all these attentions display a temper of the same good feelings, which we desire to see in every well-directed mind. There is nothing of the common, cruel, crooked-backed Richard about them. It is clear that he had a heart and sympathies much like our own, though at one interval he forgot their claims. It is a petty circumstance, but it tends to the same point, of showing that he possessed a common nature of urbanity with the rest of his species, that he did not neglect the custom then in use, of presenting his friends with new year's gifts⁹¹. He may have been wrathful, as More intimates⁹², which we may understand to mean, that he was irritable, peremptory and impatient of delay, hesitation or opposition to his plans or of his wishes; and this temper, arising from energy and excitability, may have constituted that *feritas naturæ*, that fierceness of nature, which has been charged upon him. But if the

⁸² Harl. MSS. p. 91.

⁸³ Ib. 91.

⁸⁴ Ib. 101.

⁸⁵ Ib. 64, 97.

⁸⁶ Ib. 215.

⁸⁷ Ib. 153.

⁸⁸ Ib. 148.

⁸⁹ Ib. 208.

⁹⁰ Ib. 120.

⁹¹ There is a warrant to pay alderman Shaw '200 marks, for certene newe yeres giftes, bought of him, against the fest of Cristymesse.' Ib. p. 148.

⁹² More, p. 154.

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He buries
king Henry
the sixth at
Windsor.

the imperfections and exacerbations of human sensibility are crimes, who is there that is unsinning?

It is a remarkable instance of the jaundiced eye, with which even the laudable actions of this king have been wilfully contemplated, that although one contemporary historian, who was no flatterer of him, has mentioned, to his praise, that in August 1484, he caused the body of Henry VI. which had been obscurely buried at Chertsey, to be brought to Windsor, with great solemnity⁹³, and to be interred with his royal predecessors there; an act of respectful kindness to the memory of this inoffensive king, and very creditable to his own feelings; yet the clergy, who, in his life-time, had extolled "his noble and blessed disposition"⁹⁴ in February 1484, when all his worst actions had been committed; ten years only afterwards, in 1494, under the reign of his successor, when it had become loyal to abuse him, mentions this removal from Chertsey to Windsor, with an invective against him, and as an instance of his malignity of nature, that had extinguished all piety and humanity in him⁹⁵. They declare, that he transferred the corpse to Windsor, because he envied Henry's name, and desired to stop the concourse of people that flocked to his former tomb⁹⁶; and yet but ten lines before, they had described Chertsey as a place "certainly hidden, and remote from the common access of the public, and not fit for the sepulchre of so great a king"⁹⁷. These gross inconsistencies show, that the most calumnious misrepresentations pursued even the most honorable actions of this defamed sovereign. It was magnanimous in Richard, after the slanderous imputations he had suffered about Henry's death⁹⁸, to bring

⁹³ Rouse, p. 218.

⁹⁴ See before, p. 571.

⁹⁵ In their address to the pope, to remove Henry VI. to Westminster, they say of Richard, on his re-interment, 'in quem feritas naturæ, animæ que malignitas, omnem pietatem atque humanitatem penitus extinxerat.' Wilk. Concil. 3, p. 635.

⁹⁶ Ib.

⁹⁷ Ib.

⁹⁸ This same document, written in 1494, gives important evidence, that Richard did not, in their opinion, kill king Henry. For though they strive, obviously, by their epithets, to blacken him; yet, instead of charging this murder upon him, they expressly impute it to Edward IV. Their words are, that Henry, 'in miseranda fata concesserat jussu Edwardi, tunc Angliæ regis.' Ib.

bring the subject again full before the contemplation of the nation, by, his state removal and funeral, after the old king had been thirteen years in his royal grave; and it is inconceivable how even party rage could distort a royal interment at Windsor, a place of high celebrity and great public resort, into an envious desire of committing the corpse to oblivion and neglect.

It was an act of generous attention to the convenience of his people, that although Edward IV. had for his own hunting gratification, annexed a great circuit of country to the forest of Wichwood, and appropriated it to his own use; yet Richard, notwithstanding his attachment to the chace, to please the people, disforested it, and threw it open to the public⁹⁹. But his popular actions procured him no favor from the lordly aristocracy, which sought only the continuance of its own oppressive bondage.

Among the amusements of Richard's leisure hours, he seems to have been attached to music; but to have gratified his taste for it, by exertions of authority, more suitable to that age than to our own. He empowered one of the gentlemen of his chapel, "to take and seize for the king, all such singing men and children, expert in the science of music, as he could find, and think able to do the king service, in all places in the kingdom, whether cathedrals, colleges, chapels, monasteries, or any other franchised places, except Windsor¹⁰⁰." Such an arbitrary order as this, may show his passion for this fascinating art, but must have offended wherever it was executed. He was visited by minstrels from foreign countries, and to several other minstrels he gave annuities¹⁰¹; and also, perhaps, from his fondness for their sonorous state music, to several trumpeters¹⁰².

His personal
tastes and
pleasures.

Falconry and hawking appear to have been favorite pastimes to him

⁹⁹ Rouse, 216.

¹⁰⁰ Harl. MS. p. 189.

¹⁰¹ As, to Robert Green, minstrel, ten marks: the same to J. Hawkyngs. Harl. MS. p. 46. Two minstrels had come from the

duke of Austria, p. 190; and two from the duke of Bavaria, p. 210.

¹⁰² Three of them are mentioned, to each of whom he gave a yearly payment of ten marks. Harl. MS. p. 78, 96, 104.

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him. There is a grant to the master of the king's hawks, and the keeper of the mews near Charing Cross¹⁰³; and he issued a commission to take at reasonable price, such goshawks, tarcells, falcons, lanerettes and other hawks, as could be gotten in Wales or its marches, as should be necessary for the king's disports¹⁰⁴. A similar warrant was applied to the same object in England¹⁰⁵; he dispatched a person to parts beyond the sea, to purvey hawks for him¹⁰⁶; and he had a serjeant of the falcons in England¹⁰⁷.

Hunting was also his amusement; we find his payments to a knight, the master of his hart-hounds, and a regular establishment of dogs and servants¹⁰⁸; and persons were restrained from hunting in the park of Sheynsham, in Worcestershire, without special leave; because the king desired to have this park replenished with game, and kept for his disport against his resorting into those parts¹⁰⁹.

Besides these amusements, less refined pleasures sometimes interested his notice: for there is a letter to all the mayors and sheriffs of the island, commanding them not to vex or molest John Browne, whom he calls, "our trusty servant and bear-ward;" and whom he says, "we have made master-guider and ruler of all *our bears and apes*, to us appertaining," within England and Wales; he speaks of them in the phrases of strong attachment¹¹⁰.

He was commended by a contemporary, for his encouragement of

¹⁰³ Harl. MS. p. 53.

¹⁰⁴ Ib. p. 214. It is dated 27 March 1485.

¹⁰⁵ Dated at Westminster, 8 March 1485. Ib.

¹⁰⁶ Dated 11 March. Ib.

¹⁰⁷ The grant of this is in the same MS. p. 103.

¹⁰⁸ Ib. 195, The appointments were, 12 *d.* a day for himself; 7½ *d.* a day for a servant; 8 *d.* for two yeomen riders; 4 *d.* for two yeomen vantrers; 8 *d.* for two yeomen on foot; 6 *d.* for two grooms; and 6½ *d.* a day for the keeping and expence of two horses, in the

said office; and 3 *s.* 4 *d.* for the meat of forty dogs and twelve greyhounds. MS. p. 49.

¹⁰⁹ P. 178.

¹¹⁰ Ib. p. 139. It is dated 6 Jan. 1484. He adds a charge, that no one 'unquiet, vex, or trouble him or his servants, keepers of our said bears and apes; but to him, and the keepers of *our said game*, for *our pleasure*, ye show loving benevolence and favor, and them courteously receive and intreat; to you reasonable money paying; and not suffering any manner of person, in that ye goodly may, otherwise to vex, molest, or grieve them.'

of ARCHITECTURE¹¹¹; and there are many of his grants which prove his attention to it. His works in the Tower¹¹², and at Windsor castle¹¹³, and in the palace of Westminster¹¹⁴, at Barnard castle, at a palace in London, called The Ewer; at the castles of Killingworth, Rockingham, Sudely, Nottingham, Tutbury, Somerhall and York¹¹⁵; and in his palace at the latter city¹¹⁶; a stone cross at Brecon, a bridge in Somerset, churches at King's college, Cambridge¹¹⁷; and in Wales, are also noticed. Nor did he spare trouble and expense to procure the best materials; for there is a licence to a person to go to France and Normandy, and to buy there, for the king, certain tons of Caen stone, and also plaster and glass for his works¹¹⁸. But he pursued his taste with the full exertion of the royal authority as then claimed; for he signed a warrant to take up all artificers, stuff, and carriages, as should be necessary for the furtherance and accomplishment of the works at York castle¹¹⁹.

Foreign trade experienced his attention and protection. The merchants of Italy and the Hanse towns, had their privileges confirmed¹²⁰. Several foreigners were made denizens¹²¹. One merchant received a gift of 40*l.* in alleviation of the losses he had suffered¹²². Leave was given to transport wool beyond the
straights

His attention
to trade.

¹¹¹ Rouse refers to Westminster, Nottingham, Warwick, York, Middleham, and other places, as justifying his epithets, 'in edificiis laudandus.' p. 216.

¹¹² His warrant for those, was to his serjeant carpenter, to take carpenter's timber, &c. for the hasty speed of his works there. MS. p. 227.

¹¹³ Ib. 211.

¹¹⁴ Ib. 204. This warrant is dated 17 Dec. 1484. It was, therefore, distinct from his fortifications there.

¹¹⁵ Ib. 175, 187, 190, 192, 193, 203, 207, 218.

¹¹⁶ Ib. 179.

¹¹⁷ Ib. 190, 209, 210.

¹¹⁸ MS. p. 213.

¹¹⁹ Ib. 187. He had, before this warrant, authorized the dean of York and Ratcliffe 'to take all manner of workmen and stuff, for the hasty expedition of his works.' Ib. 183. There are several of these peremptory, and, as they would now be, arbitrary and illegal orders.

¹²⁰ Ib. 85.

¹²¹ A goldsmith of East Friesland, p. 28; three Dutchmen, 28, 34, 56; a booker of Florence, 74; other persons, 36, &c. It is curious, that a Welshman was then deemed, in law, so much an alien foreigner, as to be made a denizen. p. 85.

¹²² Ib. 101.

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straights of Morocco¹²³. The Spanish procurator of Biscay, had such confidence in his stability, as to covenant to pay him 1,600*l.* in eight years¹²⁴; and appears to have advanced him so much money as to have a warrant to receive 8,000 crowns of gold from the customs on imported Spanish goods¹²⁵. He confirmed to the foreign manufacturers of cloths, the liberty of dwelling in Wales, Ireland, or England¹²⁶; but compelled foreign importers to sell their goods wholesale, and if not disposed of within a certain time, to take them out of the country¹²⁷. The merchants of Spain appear to have had many transactions with him¹²⁸.

Several licences were granted for ships to sail to Iceland; this volcanic rock of snow and ice above, and fire below, seems to have been much frequented in Richard's time, and to have drawn his particular attention, though licences were required for the voyages and their freights¹²⁹.

Weak

¹²³ MS. 104. From Venice, there is an entry of 11,000 bowstaves, and another of 7,000, and afterwards of 185,000. *Ib.* p. 71.

¹²⁴ *Ib.* p. 100.

¹²⁵ *Ib.*

¹²⁶ *Ib.* 65.

¹²⁷ Stat. of Realm, V. 2.

¹²⁸ The substance of two documents in the Harl. MS. implies this. One is, that 'Petre de Salamanca, Petre de Valiadolet, Diego de Castro, Sancio de Valinafedo, Fernando de Carion, Johan Pardo, Diego de Cadago, Alfonso de Lyon, Martino de Cordova, Gonzalo de Salamanca, merchants of Spain, should have 200*l.* of the customs and subsidies coming of whatsoever clothes, grayned or ungrayned, and of other merchandizes whatsoever, by them charged in the port of London, or elsewhere in England.' p. 76. The other directs, that 'Petre Salamanca, Sanchei de Valmazedo, Johan Pardo, Diego de Cadagna, Fernand de Carrion, Martyn de Ordogna, Diego de Castro, Peter de Valdsliyt, and Martyn de Malverda, have license to perceeve 400 marks of the customs and subsidies, coming of all manner of woollen cloths, grayned or ungrayned; of lede, tynne, alum,

wyne, yron, to be shipped in the ports of London and Southampton.' p. 99.

¹²⁹ One licence is, to a name like that of Jane Shore's husband. 'William Shore, merchant of London, and Robert Chapman, of Kingston-upon-Hull, have a licence to passe to Island, with two shippes of the portage of iiij 'tonnes. The licence during a year.' p. 88. A fuller account of two others will give an idea of the intercourse allowed to this place.

'To all owners, masters, and mariners of the navye of the counties of Norfolk and Suffolk, as well fishers as others intending to depart to the ports of Island:

'As we understand, that certain of you intend hastily to depart towards Island, not purveyed of waught for your surety in that behalve, We charge you, that none of you depart out of any of the havens of this our realm, without our licence; and that you gather and assemble you, in such of our havens of Norfolk and Suffolk as ye shall think most convenient, well harnysed and apparelyd, for your own suretie; and so depart altogether toward Humber, to attend there upon our ships of Hull, as your waughters

Weak in body, afflicted by sickness, but powerful in mind, it was on that mind Richard necessarily relied; and by exerting the faculties, which he felt to be vigorous within him, he endeavored to accomplish all he wished. In personal strength he could not compete with his enemies. This was a gift of nature, and of its author, which was not subject to his command. But his reason, his conceptions, his resolution, his power of foreseeing, combining and deciding thought; his quickness to act and his energy of action; these were within the compass of his own power, and obedient to his ambitious and aspiring soul. Hence, the infirmities of the exterior man, made his interior spirit more essential to his use, and more precious in his estimation. He felt that he towered in mind, though he had not the advantage of body; and when he added to it the authority and means of royal power, he was delighted to exert acquisitions, in which he knew that he surpassed all surrounding competition.

Hence flowed what one author calls his horrible vigilance and celerity¹³⁰, because his intellect always rushed to anticipating and decisive energies. Hence, a contemporary also gives to this quality and habit of action, the epithet of excessive¹³¹. He was too rapid, too decisive, too violent, too impatient. He struck before others saw the emerging danger, or felt the necessity of the precautionary rigor. His brother's error had been careless negligence; and his fault was a preventive activity, which was misconstrued to be remorseless tyranny. By leaving nothing undone that

waughters for the surety of you all; and that you keep together.

23 Feb. Anno 1.

159.

To all merchants, fishermen, masters, mariners, and other our subjects, now being in the parties of Island. We have granted and commanded William Combreshall, captain of our ship named the Elizabeth, to depart with the same towards you, and to be your conveyor and master, to such place as he shall think convenient, as well for your suretie as for

other great causes. We will that ye dispose you to be ordered and guided by him, and in no wise to depart from him, unto such time as the whole fleet of you shall come to anchor, and meet with others of our armye now being upon the sea, on pain of forfeiting your ships and goods.

6 July. A° 2°.

180.

¹³⁰ Pol. Virg. 552.

¹³¹ 'Nimis.' Croyl.

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that could be done, he was always doing too much for his own quiet, or for the approbation of his contemporaries. Every one dreaded a perspicacity and a precipitation, which left no time for recollecting repentance, and no hope of mercy. His little habit, deemed so horrible, of always playing, or we may say, fidgetting with his dagger, pulling it continually half in and out with his right hand¹³², was but a mark of a restless impatience of spirit, which could not even let its fingers be quiet. It is unnecessary to ascribe it to any ferocious nature; the mildest men have many unmeaning habits of such moving dumb-show.

Richard would have reigned more happily, with less talent, or with greater apathy¹³³. It is oftener the safest wisdom to leave the course of things to their own results, and to make their own remedies, than by anticipating or precipitating measures, to attempt to control them, or to prevent those consequences which we dread or dislike. Many apprehended evils never occur, and many that are produced, disappear of themselves, which hasty or too precautionary interference only aggravate or change into worse. But Richard was too prone to think, that human vigilance could not be too active and foreseeing; nor the exertions of human policy too immediate, vigorous, and decisive. Hence, he tended to out-run the tardier perceptions of his friends; and created alarm instead of security, dread instead of attachments, and the desire of a less wakeful and strenuous master, instead of that confiding regard and personal affection which he coveted, and by which alone he could be secure. The more he punished, the more he found he had to punish; till he diffused an indifference to his government, and a secret approbation of the plans of others to have a milder dynasty. He did not wait to let time do, imperceptibly

¹³² Pol. Virg. 565.

¹³³ The proclamation of Perkin Warbeck, being addressed to popular feeling, may be considered as expressing the general estimate of Richard's reign. 'Though desire of rule

did bind him, yet, in his other actions, he was noble; and loved the honor of the realm, and the contentment and comfort of his nobles and people.' Bacon's Hist. p. 615.

imperceptibly and inoffensively, much of what he wished to have done; and his forcing violence exasperated his contemporaries, and ruined himself¹³⁴.

¹³⁴ Some grants of Richard in the Harl. MS. N° 433, have induced me to consider whether they related to the celebrated Columbus. I cannot satisfy myself that they do, and yet the possibility is so interesting, that I think it right to note the facts on which that surmise occurred, and leave them to the chance of future confirmation or refutation. If he be the person alluded to, some other documents may occur to some future enquirer, that will elucidate the point; or others may show that they do not concern him.

Observing some grants to Christopher Colyns, I thought they meant the common name of Collins, and passed them over. But remembering, that the name with which Columbus chose to go into Spain, was Christopher Colon; and seeing, in the same MS., deacon spelt dekyn, as in p. 238, and Cologne, Coleyn, p. 196; and that Caxton spells this town Colen, (Dest. Troy, 2nd. p. 134,) I could not avoid asking myself, if this Christopher Colyns could have been but a varying orthography for Christopher Colon. Names and words are frequently spelt, in the MS. with as much variation, as Tyddor for Tudor; Rauffe for Ralph, Herry for Henry, Wolstre for Ulster, werre for war, &c. If these grants related to Columbus, they would show that he was appointed the constable or military commandant of the castle of Queenborough, in the isle of Shepey, 1484 and 1485. That Richard had given him a ship, and also an annuity of 100*l.* and that he had been active in repairing Queenborough castle, one of the points of the coast which were guarded against Richmond's invasion, and that he had paid some soldiers at our foreign castle of Guynes, on the French coast, and that he had money given him for his habiliments of war, and was commander of the Shepey castle in April 1485.

My first inquiry was, whether any thing that was known of the life of Columbus, contradicted the surmise. He was born, according to some, in 1442, according to others in 1447. He says of himself, in the memorandum

(printed in Churchill's and also in Kerr's Voyages,) 'In February 1467, I sailed 100 leagues beyond Iceland. To this island, which is as large as England, the English carry on trade, especially from the port of Bristol.' This passage shows, that he was in our seas seventeen years before the time of the grant; and in another place, he implies, that at some time he had been in England, for he says, as quoted by his son, 'I had seen all the countries of the east and west, and towards the north, especially England.' No account mentions at what period he was in England, or how long he stayed in it; but he mentions it elsewhere, as if it was a place that he was well acquainted with. Thus speaking of one of his discovered islands, he says, 'It is larger than England and Scotland together.'

I have not seen any account of the movements or stations of Columbus from 1467 to 1485. His son remarks, that he has no perfect knowledge of his father's early years. 'I was so young at his death, that owing to filial respect, I had not boldness to ask an account from him, of the incidents of his youth; besides, I was not then interested in such inquiries.'

His son mentions, that Colon or Columbus, in one place of his writings, says, that he had been at sea twenty-three years, without being on shore for any length of time; and in another part, that he went first to sea at fourteen years of age. But whether he was born in 1442 or 1447, these passages are not inconsistent with his being one or two years on shore in England, in 1484 and 1485.

That Columbus fought, as well as navigated, is evident from two facts. In a letter, written in 1495, he mentions, that he was formerly sent to Tunis, by king Reynier, to take the galeasse called Fernandina; and at another time, his son states, that he entered into the service of a famous captain of his own name, who commanded a fleet against the infidels, and in his service attacked four large Venetian gallies: but his vessel taking fire, he leapt

Whether Columbus was in Richard's service.

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leapt into the sea, and swam to the shore near Lisbon. He might, therefore, have been taken into Richard's service, to command an English fort on the sea coast, and to defend the maritime castle of Guynes, on the French shore, which often had foreign soldiers as part of its garrison.

The acknowledged poverty of his parents, must have made his life that of an adventurer, seeking service and employment where he could get them; and as Richard, being threatened by Richmond's invasion, and not knowing where he would land, was obliged to keep every accessible point watched and fortified, it was natural for him to retain and use an active and experienced foreigner. Such persons were likely to be more trusty to him than many of his own subjects. He had several foreigners in his service, and may have had Christopher Colon. Cabot, who discovered Newfoundland, came from Venice to settle in England, at that time.

That there was one foreigner here, at that time, of the name of Colyn, appears from another entry in the same MS. It is this: 'Herne Colyn hath a letter of passage, to passe unto the duc of Burgoyne, and to convey thether an hobyie; and John le Heure, with another hoby.' West. 4 March, An^o 2^o (1485.) p. 210.

The son of Columbus says, that his father assumed or revived the name of Colon to himself, and caused himself to be so called in Spain. He may, therefore, have also been so named in England. His Italian life calls him Colon.

His son states, that he went to Lisbon, and taught his brother Bartholomew to construct sea charts, globes, and nautical instruments; and sent this brother to England to Henry VII. to make proposals to this king, of his desired voyage. He presented to Henry a map of the world, with a latin inscription, dating his application, 13 February 1488.

Although the latin lines clearly mention 1488, in these words, yet both in some English and Italian translations, the date is printed 1480; and 1484 mentioned as the year when his brother returned to him. It is so in the Italian life, c. 12, p. 63. This is a mistake. Bartholomew's return must have

been after 1488, and seems to be more rightly placed, by Hackluyt, in 1494.

His son says, that his wife being dead, he resolved to go to Castile; but least the king of Castile might not consent to his proposal, he dispatched his brother Bartholomew from Lisbon to England. This would date his going into Spain, some time before February 1488; but, as the year was then reckoned, in England, to begin from the 25th of March, it is probable, that Bartholomew's date of the 13th of February 1488, was, in reality, 1489.

If he was the Christopher Colyns that was Richard's governor of Queenborough castle, he may have quitted England in 1485, after Richard's fall. To have been rewarded with an annuity of 100*l.* a year, he must have done this king some essential services; and having been appointed to defend the isle of Shepey, and therefore the Medway, against Henry, he may have been dismissed, on the accession of this prince, in August 1485, which allows sufficient time for his being afterwards at Lisbon. He did not sail on his first great voyage, till August 1492. The act of resumption of all Richard's grants, which was passed in November 1485, (6 Rolls Parl. p. 336—84) would annul the annuity to this Christopher Colyns, and thus leave him unprovided. His name is not among those who were exempted from the deprivation.

Having thus shown, that the facts known of Colon, or Columbus, do not contradict the application to him of Richard's grants, I will cite them as they occur in the Harleian MS., and leave it to the reader to dispose of the supposition as he shall think fit.

1. 'Christofre Colyns hath the ship called the Barbara, of Fowey, which was taken with staple ware, and forfeated, given to him of the king's rewarde.' 94.

2. 'Christofre Colyns hath a privie seale to sir Thomas Thwayt, tresourer of Calais, to content him 20*l.* which he delivered William Bolton, to content certain souldiours in Guysnes.' Ib.

3. 'Christofre Colyns hath a privie seale to the tresourer and chamberlaine, to content unto him 128*l.* 4*s.* 2*d.* in redy money; and make unto him assignment of the same, by the

the said Christofre paid for the wages of 200 men.' 100.

4. 'Christofre Colyns hath a warrant, directed to the sheriff and escheator of Kent, charging them to deliver unto him, or the bringer thereof, as much tymbre to be taken out of the fiede called Huntyngdon fiede, beside Feversham, as his workmen shall think will serve for fence grattes, and the posts of a drawbridge, at the castell of Quenesburgh; and for the flores in the porter's lodge there; and also for an axiltre for a mille. Given the 16th day of February, an. 2°.' 207.

5. 'A commission to all maires and others, showing, that Christofir Colyns, constable of the castell of Quynsburgh, or William Constable, his brother, hath auctoritie and power to take masons, stones, carcasses, tylers and dawbers, vessails, and othre necessities for the works in the said castell. Given at Lond. the 10th of April, an. 2°.' 212.

6. 'Cristofre Colyns hath a warrant to the

tresourer and chamberlayn of the exchequer, to make assignment unto him, by taille or tailles, in due form, at the receipt of the exchequer, to him and Thomas Cotton, as collector of the subsidie in London, of the some of 3*l.* appointed to the said Cristofre for his reward, and 27*l.* for his habiliments of warre, &c.' 63. 'Christofer Colyns, th' office of constable of the castell of Queneburgh, and the mylne to the said castle adjoining, during his life, with the wages of 20 marks yearly, to be perceived of the issues of the countie of Essex and Hertford, by the hands of the sheriff.' 74.

7. 'Cristofre Colyns, squier, an annuytie of 100*l.* fro Estre, an° primo, to the ende and terme of 20 years, of the subsidie of 3*s.* per ton, and 12*d.* per lb. &c. in the port of London.' 76.

The brother mentioned in the fifth, must have been a brother by his marriage with Colyns' sister, or Colyns with his sister.

HISTORY OF ENGLAND.

CHAP. VI.

THE REIGN OF HENRY VII.

1485—1509.

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III.
1470.

THIS prince had never been in London since that boyish age in which Henry VI. had mentioned, that he would have the crown they were fighting for¹. This remark of his maternal uncle may have arisen from the good king's perception, of the Lancastrian line having then no nearer heir, after his own; and from his belief, or wish, that the York family might not be permanently successful². It indicates how early the eyes of the Lancastrian party were turned to Richmond; and how far men, at that time, looked forward to the possibilities of the future accessions.

¹ This circumstance is mentioned by Henry's earliest biographer, Bernard Andreas, p. 136. His work is in MS. in the Cotton library, Domit. XVIII. All the chroniclers allude to it. Andreas intimates, also, that the duke of Bretagne had heard, from others, that Richmond would reign, p. 140; which shows, that Henry's remark had fixed the public eye early on him. Perhaps Henry had meant, in case of his own son's death, to have appointed the earl his successor; and,

from this feeling, uttered the prognostication alluded to. Henry VII. himself countenanced and circulated it.

² It is not improbable, that when the duke of York claimed to be the heir to the crown, before the birth of Henry's son, the secret politics of the Lancastrian court, in their extreme enmity to their rivals, may have projected the setting up of Richmond, from his maternal relation to the crown, as the antagonist interest.

accessions. This seems to have been a favorite, although a dangerous subject of their political speculations.

His grandfather, Owen Tudor, a private Welsh gentleman, in the service of the widow of Henry V. had married her; and had been imprisoned for that marriage, in Newgate, and at Walingford castle³. This French lady survived her self-degrading nuptials only nine years⁴; but in that time had three sons, of whom the youngest became a monk; the second was Jasper, the indefatigable earl of Pembroke; and the third, Edmund, whom Henry VI. created earl of Richmond⁵, and who, marrying Margaret, the heiress of the Somerset line, then only ten years old⁶, died himself at the age of twenty-five⁷; leaving one son, Henry, whom the events, already recorded, raised to be the founder of a new dynasty on the English throne.

Henry VII. was born at Pembroke castle, in 1456, a few months before his father died. His infancy was sickly⁸; but he was carefully nursed by his mother, a child herself. He was afterwards committed by Edward IV. to the care of the lady of sir William Herbert, to be educated in a state of friendly and liberal custody; and he owed to her the foundation of his manly accomplishments⁹.

The

³ Rym. Fed. 10, p. 686. He is there called, Owen ap Tedyr; but, in another document, he is named Meredith ap Tydier. Ib. 828.

⁴ She had married Owen in 1428; she died in 1437. Rym. Fed. 10, p. 662. On 4 January, Fab. 433.

⁵ He was made so in March 1453. Rolls Parl. 5, p. 250—4. In 1436, we find Edmund, and his brother Jasper, under the care of the abbess of Berkyng, from 27 July 1437 to 28 February 1439, for which she was paid 17*l.* and afterwards to November 1441, for 52*l.* 12*s.* more. Rym. Fed. 10, p. 828.

⁶ Holling. p. 678, who mentions her, at that age, to have become Richmond's mother. This is hardly credible; yet her funeral sermon states, that Henry VI. procured her marriage with his maternal brother, when

she was only nine years old. p. 8. The duke of Suffolk wanted her for his son. Ib.

⁷ He died the 3d of November, in 1456, and was buried at St. Davids, leaving his son Henry VII. but fifteen weeks old. Inquis. ap. Dugd. Bar. 2, p. 237. This would place Henry's birth in July 1456; so that he was not quite 4 years younger than Richard III.

⁸ 'In tenella ætate sæpe valetudinarius fuit.' Bern. And. MS. p. 134. He was born, according to this author, on St. Agnes' day, which was the 21st of January. This makes him six months older than the Inquisition mentioned in Dugdale.

⁹ Pol. Virg. 522. 'Well and honorably educated, and in all kind of civility brought up, by the lady Herbert.' Hall, 287.

The best instructors were provided for him; his mind was active, and his improvement rapid¹⁰. He acquired that attachment to religion which never left him; and his behaviour was interesting. Herbert falling in 1470, at Banbury, Jasper, the prince's uncle, during the short restoration of Henry VI. obtained possession of his person, and carrying him to London, introduced him to the king, who was pleased with his countenance, and expressed the idea of his possible elevation¹¹. The battle of Tewkesbury compelling Jasper to fly, he thought it prudent, that Henry, then in his fifteenth year, should leave the country with him¹². His mother suggested, that Wales had many castles in which he could be safe; but his uncle advised her not to take the chance, as his life would be aimed at; and promised to regard him as his son¹³. The observation of Henry VI. had made him a mark of dangerous attention, and she assented to his temporary exile. Jasper meant to have made France his asylum, as Henry's grandmother had been the sister of the French king's father; but a storm driving them on Bretagne, the duke received them courteously, yet detained them. Here they remained above twelve years, as actual prisoners, but kindly treated¹⁴. The efforts of Edward IV. to get them within his power, had the effect of making the duke more vigilant in watching them; but also more alive to the policy of keeping them in his dominions.

It was extraordinary, that the proud nobility of England should chuse for their sovereign a young man so unknown to Englishmen, and whose paternal ancestry was so obscure. But their party feelings urging them to oppose the throne, and their safety requiring

¹⁰ B. Andreas says, that he was told by Andreas Scot, of Oxford, Henry's preceptor, that he never heard a boy of that age so capable, and so quick in learning. MS. ib. 135.

¹¹ Pol. V. 522. Hall, 287.

¹² Pol. V. 531.

¹³ Bern. And. MS. 136—40.

¹⁴ Comines, V. 1, p. 514, who adds, 'The earl of Richmond told me, that, from the time he was five years old, he had been always a fugitive or a prisoner. I was at the court of the duke Francis, at the time they were seized, and the duke treated them very handsomely, for prisoners.' Ib.

requiring a leader of some nominal pretensions, at least, they sacrificed their inveterate prejudices of birth to political expediency; and, perhaps, they thought they could govern, more easily, a king who would owe his crown, not to legal right, but to their selection and support. Hence, they combined in his favor against Richard; and allowed Stanley to put the crown on his head, in the field of Bosworth.

Resting two days at Leicester, after this victory, to settle his immediate measures, Henry sent a proclamation, as king, into York, to inform its citizens of Richard's death¹⁵; and that no one might set up the young earl Warwick, the son of the late duke of Clarence, and the next heir to the throne, if Edward's daughters, who had been incapacitated, were passed by, their leader and his competitor for the throne, he ordered sir Robert Willoughby to take him from Sheriff's Hutton castle in Yorkshire, and to lodge him, then an unbefriended lad of fifteen, in the ominous Tower of London¹⁶. Henry advanced to the metropolis by easy journeys, amid much popular applause. The feelings of the country were sufficiently divided, to ensure to every successful leader a satisfying quantity of public acclamations. As he approached London, he was met by the city authorities, with the usual gratulations, in their usual costume. They had been liberal of these, to all the chiefs who had approached them from the field of victory. The peers greeted him at Shoreditch. He entered in a close chariot¹⁷, which was not liked; but he may have thought it necessary for his safety. He went to St. Paul's church, offered his three standards¹⁸, and joined in the Te Deum; and took up his first residence, like Edward V. in the Bishop's palace. While he rested there, plays, pastimes and pleasures, were exhibited in every part of the city; and

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¹⁵ See it in Drake's Ebor. p. 122.

¹⁶ Pol. Virg. 565. Graft. 853.

¹⁷ Bacon. B. Andreas says, 'latenter.' MS.

¹⁸ Graft. 854. One had the image of St. George. In the second was a fiery dragon, beaten upon white and green sarsenet. The third had a dun cow, painted on yellow tarterne. Ib.

and on the 30th of October, he proceeded in great state to Westminster, and was crowned¹⁹.

It was amid many circumstances connected with his future disquietude, that Henry came to his throne. A stranger to most of those who had crowned him, except from the short acquaintance of the last few hurried days, he could not but perceive, that they had exalted him by ungratefully abandoning a liberal master, whom they had dethroned and killed. Like Richard, he had to reign among conflicting interests, in a stormy age of new opinions, and over an aristocracy both humorsome and dictatorial; jealous of privileges, which the welfare of the increasing population required to be abated; easily affronted; and whose resentment, the depositions and fate of four sovereigns had shown to be most deadly. What security could he obtain for their continuing fidelity; and how must he shape his conduct to escape those rebellions and evils, which had pursued the throne of England from the accession of Richard II. to the downfall of his late namesake?

The errors of the last king pointed out many things that were to be avoided. But, as all the contending interests which had been agitating the country since the reign of Henry V. continued still subsisting and unappeased, it was a natural impossibility that his reign could be long tranquil, or universally or permanently popular. Whichever way he moved, he, like the reprobated Richard, must dissatisfy many. New enemies would start up, from impatient selfishness, every year of his reign; and no wisdom or virtue could save him either from abuse or hostility. Happily, however, for our comfort, hope is more active than foresight; and the tempests that are to afflict us, are rarely believed possible till their ravages are felt. The king trod warily, and had a naturalized equanimity of temper, and a magnanimity of mind, which, being unconquerable by adversity, kept him from either exciting or deserving it.

His

¹⁹ Graft. 854, 5. B. Andreas gives Elizabeth a pretty speech on Henry's successes, which Speed has translated in his history, p. 741;

but which it is not likely the royal biographer could have heard, though he was present at Henry's entrance into the metropolis.

His two first objects were, to obtain a parliamentary sanction for his crown, and to reward his friends. The parliament met in September. The bishop who had been preceptor to Edward V. opened it with a speech, which, quoting both Ovid and the Bible, assured the nation, that a golden age was coming to it under their new Joshua, who would strive with all his might to extirpate or amend the wicked; and ended with exhorting the land to hail him as the Jews did their Solomon, with "God save the king!" "May the king live for ever!"²⁰ The parliament first granted a subsidy, and then enacted the inheritance of the crown to be "in the most royal person of king Harry VII. and the heirs of his body, and on none other"²¹. The attainders of his friends were reversed²², and similar measures were retorted on the chief supporters of Richard²³. A general amnesty was then wisely proclaimed to all others who should submit themselves, and swear fealty within forty days. A great number came from their sanctuaries, and accepted the offered grace²⁴. He made his uncle Pembroke, duke of Bedford; and Stanley, earl Derby; and Chandos, a gentleman of Bretagne, earl of Bath. He raised sir Giles Daubeney and Willoughby to the baronial peerage; and restored Buckingham's eldest son to his father's dukedom and possessions. He named a numerous privy council from his most valued or important adherents; but, though kind to them all, he selected those to be his confidential

²⁰ Parl. Rolls, 6, p. 267.

²¹ Ib. 268—70. This statute vested a new parliamentary right in his posterity, and took it away from Edward's line; for, if Elizabeth had died childless, this act fixed it in Henry's issue by any other wife.

²² Ib. 273. As the king himself had been attainted, it was consulted, by the judges, what was to be done in this respect. They unanimously agreed, 'That the crown takes away all defects and stops in blood; and that, from the time the king assumed the crown, the fountain was cleared, and all attainders and corruptions of blood discharged.' But

the records of the attainders against him were ordered, by parliament, to be destroyed. Bacon's Hist. 581.

²³ Parl. Rolls, p. 275—8. The attainders of Richard's supporters were much censured, as these gentlemen were obliged to obey his military summons, as king, on pain of forfeiting their own lands or lives. Croyl. 581.

²⁴ Pol. V. 566. Graft. 855. Stillington, the bishop who had assisted to make Edward V. illegitimate, was at first imprisoned at York, 'sore crased, by reason of his trouble.' Drake's Ebor. 123. But he obtained a pardon.

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confidential ministers and friends, who had been his earliest and most continuous assistants and advisers²⁵. They who had served Richard, and at last betrayed him, were rather rewarded than trusted by Henry; and it was probably from this reason, that lord Stanley, while allowed to remain constable of England, was not placed in his household, nor much befriended, though, for the sake of his mother, the king occasionally visited him. The chamberlainship was presented to sir William, who had really given Henry the victory and the crown. Anxious to adopt such measures as should improve the kingdom, in laws, institutions and manners, he endeavoured to raise hopes in all, that a better order of things would be established, wherever the national welfare required the melioration²⁶. He introduced a new means of personal safety, by appointing, like the king of France, a body guard of fifty archers²⁷; and though he delayed his covenanted marriage with Elizabeth, perhaps deliberating on the policy of preferring the heiress of Bretagne, till the nation became uneasy; he yielded at length to the general desire of extinguishing all future civil wars of rival dynasty, by uniting her line with his own, in their marriage on the 18th of January 1486. Bonfires, dancing, songs, and banquets, pervaded the metropolis. It seemed the consummation of the nation's happiness²⁸. She was beautiful and gentle. But whether from her previous conduct, or from more personal causes, than

²⁵ Pol. Virg. 567. Bray, to whose activity and prudence Henry owed so much, was made sir Reginald, and appointed one of his privy council. Throughout his reign, Morton, Fox, Bray, and Dawbenny, seem to have been his most trusted advisers.

²⁶ Ib. Hall, 425. Graft. 857. It was at the end of autumn in this year, that the new kind of sickness came on in England, called The Sweating Sickness. It began with a burning perspiration, with such a violent heat in the head and stomach, that the sufferers could bear no clothes. It was very mortal; but they who survived and transpired

for twenty-four hours, usually escaped. In eight days, two lord mayors and six aldermen became victims to it. Graft. 857, 8. Pol. V. 567, 8.

²⁷ Their name, 'yeomen of the guard,' was not new. The king was too wise, not to soften an obnoxious measure, by connecting it with existing titles. The novelty was, in the personal appropriation of them to the royal security, and in their fixed locality about his apartments. Their state effect has occasioned them to be continued in the dresses of their first institution.

²⁸ Bern. And. MS. Dom.

than we can now discover, no cordial affection subsisted at first between her and Henry²⁹. The king sent for his two clerical friends Morton and Fox, in whom he placed the highest confidence³⁰. Morton was appointed archbishop of Canterbury and chancellor; and Fox, a bishop and his privy seal.

It was the sanguine belief of the nation, that the union with Elizabeth, closed the fountain of all future factions. It would have done so, if the conflict had been merely a personal contest; but the contending leaders being the representatives of the continuing hostile interests, the materials of commotion continued ready to explode, whenever any new man of influence chose to become turbulent. Of these hostile interests, many became embodied in attachment to the York family; because Henry, having come forward on a Lancastrian title, all that opposed government inclined to favor the antagonist line.

The battle of Bosworth had destroyed the most distinguished adherents of Richard III. but left the animosity of his friends to the new sovereign, and his treacherous supporters, unabated. Yet the preceding tempests had swept away the men of most name and importance; and no person of active consequence existed at the moment of the new accession, disposed to resist the change, excepting lord Lovel. It has been seen that Catesby, by his dying will, recommended that this friend of Richard, should be taken into Henry's favor. Instead of using this policy, the king excepted him out of the general amnesty.

In the spring, Henry resolved, like Richard, to make a tour of popularity and policy to the northern counties³¹. As they cherished

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²⁹ Bacon, p. 582. Yet he settled on her a liberal dower (P. Rolls, V. 6); and seems to have become more attached to her, after she was separated from her mother, and had exhibited her own piety and maternal virtues.

³⁰ Morton was raised to the primacy on the death of cardinal Bourchier, (Pol. V. 575) who was descended from Edward III. through

his son Thomas, duke of Gloucester. Croyl. 581.

³¹ There is a full account of Henry's progresses, in the Harl. MS. N^o 7,408. Hearne has printed the present one, from the pen of a spectator, in his Leland's Collectanea, V. 4, p. 185.

cherished so warmly the memory of Richard, this visit had the appearance of danger; and Lovel thought it would enable him to avenge his fallen master. He left his sanctuary, and attempted a sudden insurrection against Henry³². The king, on horseback, nobly accompanied, proceeded by Waltham to Cambridge, where the University received him with honor; and passed on to Lincoln, where he kept his Easter, attending frequently at the cathedral during the solemnity. Turning off to Nottingham, he went, the next week, into Yorkshire, where the Stanleys took their leave of him; and he moved through Doncaster to Pomfret³³. It was the plan of Lovel to destroy him by surprize. The king had heard, that he was exciting disturbance, and had disregarded the rumor; but as the stately train was advancing towards York, the rebels suddenly appeared about Rippon and Middleham³⁴; and if Henry had not been, at this crisis, joined at Barnesdale, by the earl of Northumberland, "with a right, great, and noble company," Lovel might have effected his purpose. The king was almost intercepted, when the earl appeared³⁵. He could only send, at the moment, against the insurgents 3,000 men, several armed only with leather instead of mail, under the duke of Bedford. But this nobleman, on consulting with his knightly companions, deeming it adviseable to allure them to submission, without a conflict that must be doubtful, sent to them an offer of grace and pardon to all who would lay down their arms. As their plan of surprize had failed, and had not been seconded, and they were too few to wage a protracted war with the king, they accepted the judicious proposal; and Lovel withdrew, in the night, into Lancashire³⁶, and afterwards sailed to Flanders to Margaret, the dowager duchess of Burgundy³⁷, whose affection for her brother, Edward IV. led her to support all who chose to become inimical to Henry. The two Staffords,

³² Pol. Vir. 568.³³ Hearne, p. 186.³⁴ lb. 187.³⁵ So Croyland states, p. 582.³⁶ Pol. Vir. 569.³⁷ Bacon, 582.

Staffords, who had been co-operating with Lovel, were taken, and the elder one executed³⁸.

The king, approaching York, was received, three miles from its gates, by the corporation and citizens on horseback; and near the walls by processions of friars; and within the city by the general assemblage of all the parish churches; the whole population vociferously acclaiming him³⁹. Pageants of crowned kings and minstrels were ready with their long speeches; and Solomon, David, and the Virgin, were also conjured up to welcome him. His devout attendances at the minster, were followed by state banquets, that united the hearts of the subjects to their king; and he then crossed the country; and having, at Whitsun evening, reached Worcester, he visited Gloucester and Hereford, with the same congratulations from the municipal authorities, friars, clergy, and people; and from their oratorial pageants⁴⁰, which so much delighted the emerging and simple literary taste of our ancestors. He paused a-while at Bristol, where the William Canyng⁴¹ of our too early-flowering, and too impatient Chatterton, had then recently been mayor; and where some Rowley taught king Bremius at the town gate, and Prudence at the high cross, and Justice, with her maiden children, at St. John's, to address the king with humble good sense, though not with the poetry that breathes in *Ella* and *Sir Charles*⁴². The inventive genius of the city was displayed

³⁸ Pol. Vir. Grafton, 860. This was the Humphrey who had so actively assisted to surround Buckingham.

³⁹ The popular cry of 'the mervellous great nomber of men, women, and children, on foote, was, 'king Henry! king Henry! Our Lord preserve that sweet and well-savoured face.' Hearne, 187.

⁴⁰ All these our author describes, with careful remembrance, and visible pleasure. 188—201.

⁴¹ This merchant is frequently mentioned in W. Wyrcestre's Itiner.

⁴² See the speeches to Henry, in Hearne, 199—201. I have no doubt that Chatterton found much that was ancient; but, like Macpherson with Ossian, I think he made his originals but themes for his own genius to compose upon, and has given us himself, instead of his ancestors. It is a misfortune to the world, that he found any thing to excite his talents so prematurely, and to suggest their exertion in the path he chose,

displayed in pageants that were praised⁴³; and the king, having conversed with the citizens to their heart's delight⁴⁴, returned to Sheen, visited by the nobles as he passed; and receiving, from the great towns and abbeys, complimentary presents of gold, silver, wine, beads, and mittins. The lord mayor of London, with all the city companies, in their barges, rowed up to Putney, to accompany him in state down the Thames to Westminster. At all the cities, the bishops read the pope's bull, declaring the king and queen's title to the crown⁴⁵, the foundation for the anathemas of the church, that were subsequently issued against those who opposed it.

Henry soon afterwards visited Winchester, where his son Arthur was born⁴⁶; whose christening was contemplated and provided for by the countess of Richmond, the king's mother, with a ceremonial solicitude⁴⁷, and was afterwards performed with a deliberate pomp⁴⁸, which show how fondly the age was attached to the dramatic parade, as well as the happy directress⁴⁹.

As

⁴³ After mentioning, that a baker's wife, in her joy, cast out of a window a great quantity of wheat, exclaiming, 'Welcome, and good luck!' the author adds, from his own taste, 'There was a pageant called The shipwright's pageant, with praty conceits plying in the same; and a litel farther, an olifaunte, with a castle on his back, curiously wrought; and the resurrection in the highest tower of it, with certain imagery smiting bells. All went by weights, *merveolously wele done*.' p. 202.

⁴⁴ The king asked them 'the cause of their poverty; and they showed his grace, for the great loss of ships and goods within five years. The king comforted them, that they should set on and make new ships, and exercise their merchandize as they were wont to do; and he should so help them, by divers means, as he showed them.' The effect of his kind manners, the author adds, 'The mayor of the town told me, they heard not, this hundred years, of no king so good a comfort: wherefore they thanked Almighty God, that had sent them so good and gracious a sovereign lord.' Hearne, p. 202.

⁴⁵ Hearne, 200—3.

⁴⁶ On St. Eustachius' day. *Ib.* 204. In September 1486. Speed, 742. Our venerable chronicler was absurd enough to say, on the prince being christened Arthur, 'of which name outward nations and foreign princes trembled and quaked, so much was that name to all, terrible and fearful.' Graft. p. 860. So Hall, 428. They forgot, that the Arthur of romance was not the Arthur of history.

⁴⁷ His minute preparatory ordinances, from the Harl. MS. N^o 6,079, are printed by Hearne, p. 179.

⁴⁸ Hearne has also printed the full detail of this stately baptism, and the consequent festivities. 204—8.

⁴⁹ This lady survived her son king Henry. Her life is a favorable picture of the high female nobility of those times. Her funeral sermon states, that her father was John duke of Somerset; her mother, Margaret. 'That she was right studious in books, which she had in great number, both in English and in French; and she translated several tracts of devotion, from French into English: among these,

As Henry had been as much seated by violence on his throne, as Richard III. though by battle, instead of the scaffold, he was not, for some time, popular beyond his own immediate party, that had enthroned him. The general body of the nation was still greatly affected to the house and memory of York. Richard was remembered with regret, especially in the northern counties⁵⁰. Henry was hated for his success; and charged with having put to death in the Tower, the young earl he had imprisoned⁵¹. The king's general demeanor, from the difficulties surrounding him, was not adapted to lessen the adverse humour. He was mysterious and impenetrable. More says, that one thing was so often pretended, and another meant, that nothing was so plain and openly proved, but from the custom of close dealing, men inwardly suspected it⁵²; and Bacon remarks, that he had a fashion rather to create doubts than assurance⁵³. Having prospered so much by the treachery of others to Richard, and being afterwards compelled to keep the traitors

these, the Mirror of Gold, and the last book of Thomas-a-Kempis. She lamented that she had not applied to Latin, though she knew enough of it to understand well her prayer-book. By lineage and affinity, she had thirty kings and queens, within four degrees of marriage to her, besides earls, marquisses, dukes and princes. She was temperate in food, 'eschewing banquets, rere-suppers, and jouscrys betwixt meles.' She rose about five o'clock: attended her public and private prayers; dined at 10. She had written regulations for her household, which she had read to them four times a year. She frequently exhorted them to do well. She was very kind in entertaining strangers. She daily fed, lodged, and visited, in her house, twelve poor persons; ministered to them in their sickness, and saw them on their deathbeds, that she might learn to die. See her funeral sermon, printed by Wynkyn de Worde, at The Sun, in Fleet-street. After her first husband's (Richmond's) death, she married the eldest son of the duke of Buckingham, and uncle of the one who favored Richard.

Surviving him, she chose, for her third and last husband, lord Stanley, at the end of the reign of Edward IV. then a widower. She had no children by her two last nuptials. But this lady demands our grateful remembrance, for the benefits she has occasioned to learning and religion. She founded a perpetual lecture of divinity at Oxford, and another at Cambridge, at which some of our ablest divines have emerged to deserved reputation; also, a perpetual public preacher at Cambridge, which has been altered into the delivery of one sermon to the clergy, every Easter. She also founded Christ's college, and likewise St. John's, at Cambridge. She was admitted into the fraternity of several religious houses, which entitled her to their prayers, and to a share in what they deemed their meritorious penances and good works. See Preface to her Sermon, ed. 1708.

⁵⁰ Bacon, 595.

⁵¹ Pol. V. 569, 570. Speed, 742.

⁵² More, 245, 6.

⁵³ Hist. 583.

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traitors as his friends; while, from his strangeness to the nation, and from its resentment at his victory, he had such a necessity for their support, and yet from their previous conduct, such an uncertainty as to their stability, Henry was like a man sleeping near a precipice, or living amid surrounding ambushes. He knew not where he was fully safe, nor in whom he could fully confide, nor for what duration. Hence, caution and alarm produced that doubting, and wary secrecy, which, causing suspicion and uneasiness in others, prevented them from being cordial, and him from being popular or happy. All crowns, obtained by violence and treachery, must be pursued by these disquietudes. But although the nation was full of discontent, and of unemployed soldiers, and turbulent men without livelihood, who sought subsistence or advancement in disturbance⁵⁴, the disaffected had no great leader to organize, embody, and direct them. The Stanleys, if disposed to revolt, could never be trusted again. Buckingham was too young; and the son of Clarence was secluded in prison. From this want of actual chiefs, and yet from the necessity of having one of name as a nucleus for successful insurrection, it became a remarkable feature in this reign, that impostors should be set up to supply the deficiency, and to become the desired leaders. They were the creatures of the disaffection, and of the exigencies of the day. They failed, from their being deceptions; but their temporary impressions show how transitory Henry's sceptre might have been, if a Warwick, or Hastings, or Buckingham had been alive, to have excited and combined the nobility and gentry into a confidential co-operation against it.

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The first that was started against Henry, was a boy of ten years old⁵⁵. At his emerging some contradictions confused the character which the adventurer was reported to have assumed. According to the earliest rumor, the young duke of York had arrived in Ireland⁵⁶. The king sent messengers into different parts, to ascertain

⁵⁴ Pol. V. 569.

⁵⁵ Rolls Parl. 6, p. 397.

⁵⁶ Bern. And. MS. p. 185.

ascertain every circumstance as to his origin, education, previous residence, and present friends⁵⁷; and had the pope's bull in his favor, again read in the churches, and all his enemies excommunicated⁵⁸. It was at last declared, that the new competitor of the king was Warwick, the son of the duke of Clarence, the attainted brother of Edward IV.; and that he had escaped from the Tower.

It does not seem that this lad was first launched into his adventure by the duchess of Burgundy, though she afterwards adopted him. It was a priest at Oxford, who began the delusion⁵⁹; and others who had flourished under Edward IV. combined to prompt his sprightly nature, and to give him that information, which enabled him to mislead others so ingeniously, that many would have died in his defence⁶⁰. The earl of Lincoln, whom Richard III. had declared heir to his crown, was so infatuated by his own resentments, as to accredit him.

As his partisans had no force in England, sufficient to make a safe point for the assembling of those who were to support him; the pretended prince was first exhibited in Ireland, in Lent⁶¹, with all the success, that could be expected from warm hearts and excited imaginations. The Irish nobility believed all his tales. Even the lord chancellor received him into his castle. Thus patronized,

⁵⁷ Bern. And. MS. p. 185.

⁵⁸ Hearne *Lel.* p. 209. The pope's bull, dated 6 kal. April 1486, states, that he approves and confirms Henry's succession, and requires the obedience of all his subjects, and forbids any from raising tumults; and if Elizabeth should die childless, settles the succession in his issue by any other wife. 12 Rym. Fed. 297. To have recourse to such an authority, implies great doubts in Henry's mind, as to his permanency.

⁵⁹ Bern. And. 186. This author calls him the son of a baker, or cobbler; the Parliament Rolls says, of a joiner. 6, p. 397. William

Symonds, the contriving priest, was but 28 years of age; and, on being examined before the convocation, after his capture, confessed the imposture. See the document in Wilkin's *Conc.* 3, p. 618.

⁶⁰ Bern. And. 186. Polydore says, the priest was suborned by the chiefs of his faction. p. 571.

⁶¹ or Hearne, 209. *Graft.* 862—5. *Pol. V.* 570. He was crowned with a diadem, taken from a statue of the Virgin. The viceroy, chancellor, and treasurer, sanctioned the coronation; and the bishop of Meath preached at it. Ware *Hib.*

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patronized, the duchess Margaret added her impressive sanction, and he prepared to land in England⁶².

Alarmed at the popular favor that began to befriend this unexpected competitor, Henry drew the real earl of Warwick out of the Tower, paraded him through the streets of London; and satisfied the great body of the nobility and gentry, that the other was an impostor. To allay as far as possible, all resentful feelings against himself, he had a general amnesty of all offences proclaimed, without any exception. This had a salutary effect; but did not suit the interests of the York party, nor reconcile its general friends. The earl of Lincoln, his queen's nephew, and the next male heir of York, after Warwick, determined to take advantage of the insurrection of the Irish; and left England to join Margaret in Flanders, where he met lord Lovel. It was settled, that they should foment the rebellion in Ireland, land in England, release the real earl of Warwick, and make him their Yorkist king⁶³. The impostor was only to be used as a convenient instrument for exciting the opposing spirit of the English nation into an effective co-operation.

Henry, endangered and angered by this serious plot, dispossessed his queen's mother, the widow of Edward IV. of all her possessions.

⁶² This lady, who seconded every plot to dethrone the man that had driven her own family from the sovereignty of England, was, in Henry VII.'s time, by a classical allusion, occasioned by her pertinacious enmity to him, called his persecuting Juno. B. Andreas, MS. Dom. A. 18. She had her brother Edward's taste for martial romances. Caxton says, he translated his Destruction of Troy, out of French into English, at her commandment and request, and calls her, his lady and mistress. If printing circulates books, let us recollect, that it was the demand for them which chiefly created printing. It was the demand, exceeding what copyists could supply, that led the mind to the invention of the typographic art, far more than any accident.

Caxton shows this, in his own confession as to this work. 'Forasmuch as I am weary of tedious writing, and worn in years, being not able to write out several books for all gentlemen, and such others as are desirous of the same, I have caused this book to be printed; that, being published the more plenteously, men's turns may be more easily served.' Dest. Troy, p. 120, 3d book. He says of the two first books, that, by her commandment, he began the translation at Bruges, continued it in Ghent, and finished it at Cologne, in 1471; and that he was at Cologne, when he began the third book for her contemplation. 2d book, p. 134. Here we see the places that connected him with the art of printing.

⁶³ Graft. 864, 5.

possessions. Her residence had been the seed-bed of the conspiracies in his own favor, and would naturally be the centre of all that would attack him. To prevent this again, he confined her to a residence in Bermondsey abbey⁶⁴. Then, uneasy at Lincoln's flight, and fearful that others would follow him, and make Flanders and Brussels to be a scene of conspiracy against him, as Bretagne and Paris had been for him, against Richard, the king went to Essex and Suffolk, but could not gain any certainty where his enemies would land⁶⁵. He caused the eastern ports to be closed, and the coast to be guarded; sent the former queen's son Dorset to the Tower⁶⁶; and prepared to encounter the invasion, that he was certain would take place. These measures of energy were of the same character of violence, which Richard had used against Rivers and others. But Henry avoided his most revolting error, by abstaining from their blood.

Lincoln and Lovel sailed to Ireland, with 2,000 able German soldiers, under a commander of high birth, and great talent and experience, Martin Swart; and landed at Dublin, on the 24th of May, where the boy was again proclaimed king. This select force, accompanied by a multitude of savage Irishmen, armed only with "skaynes and mantels," under lord Gerardine, arrived on the 4th of June, at Furnes, near Lancaster⁶⁷; projecting to pass into Yorkshire, and there concenter all the friends of the York dynasty.

The king assembled, at Kennilworth castle, his army, which lord Oxford petitioned to command; and, issuing a judicious proclamation,

⁶⁴ 'Where,' says Grafton, 'she lived a miserable and wretched life.' p. 864. So Hall, 431. There is an account of her funeral, and of her many daughters' last attentions to her, in a MS. in the library of the Royal Society. This lady, in her prosperity, had the merit of completing the foundation of

Queen's college, Cambridge, (Pol. V. 571,) which queen Margaret had begun.

⁶⁵ Hearne, 209.

⁶⁶ Graft. 866. Pol. V. 572.

⁶⁷ Rolls Parl. 6, p. 397. Pol. V. 573. Graft.

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16th June.
Battle of
Stoke.

proclamation⁶⁸, marched, through Coventry and Loughborough⁶⁹, to Nottingham, where lord Strange brought him a powerful body. Swart moved toward Newark. The king, after hearing divine service, intercepted them at Stoke, a mile beyond Newark⁷⁰. Lincoln, by Swart's advice, drew up his men in an advantageous station on the brow of a hill. Henry made three divisions, but filled the foremost with his best troops; and placed the others as their supporting wings. After an address to his army, the battle began. It lasted three hours, and was at one time doubtful⁷¹. The skill and valor of Swart deserved a better cause. He fell with Lincoln, Lovel, and Gerardine; and their deaths, with 4,000 others⁷², ended the only conflict that seriously endangered Henry, after his accession. The impostor, and the priest who had taught and moved him, were taken. The latter was committed to "perpetual prison and miserable captivity." The former was too insignificant a puppet to be any longer dangerous; and, as the wisest depreciation of his claims and of his followers, he was made the king's falconer, and afterwards sent to turn the spits in his kitchen⁷³.

Happily for Henry, this dangerous invasion was made too precipitately by Lincoln and Lovel. Much national feeling was with their enterprize; but the evils of attainder and confiscation were too great to be risked, without a greater probability of success than they presented. If they had won this their first battle, they might have been numerously joined; but their defeat extinguished all

⁶⁸ It forbade any to rob churches or individuals, or to molest any one; or to take provisions without paying for them, on pain of death; or to lodge themselves but as the king's officers directed; or to make any quarrel; or to impede the bringing of supplies to the army, Hearne, 210, 211.

⁶⁹ All vagabonds and common women were driven from the army; and those who remained were put into the stocks and prisons of Loughborough. *Ib.* 212.

⁷⁰ Hearne, 213—215.

⁷¹ Bernard Andreas says, that, at one time, Henry's friends were thought to be defeated. 'Dum preliarentur, nostri qui *putabantur superati*, illos denique subjecerunt.' MSS. Dom. p. 189.

⁷² Hearne, 214. Bern. And. Pol. V. 574. Hall, 434.

⁷³ Pol. V. 574. Graft. 867. Bern. And. MS. 189.

all hopes of any present change of dynasty. Henry had again an interval of tranquillity; he made a truce of seven years with Scotland; received ambassadors from the French king, and endeavored to mediate between him and Bretagne. He released the marquis Dorset from the Tower, and received him into his friendship; and perceiving how deeply the nation was interested in the house of York, he gratified the public feeling, by a coronation of his queen⁷⁴.

The imposition of a tax which the parliament enacted to defray the expence of the king's aid to Bretagne, excited the northern counties into a revolt. The king directed the earl of Northumberland to enforce the payment of the assessment; and the people, who had borne this lord a continual grudge for his treachery to Richard in the battle of Bosworth, vindictively attacked and killed him⁷⁵; and then assembled in rebellion under sir John Egremont. Henry intrusted the earl of Surrey with an army to suppress it; and as it was not otherwise supported, he discomfited them with ease. Their popular leader was beheaded; and Egremont fled to the court of Margaret in Flanders⁷⁶.

The next great ebullition of discontent appeared in the countenance given to the youth, who pretended to be the young duke of York, brother of Edward V. It was hoped, or believed by many, that this prince had not been put to death by Richard, but had escaped; and a young man of his age, who had travelled much abroad,

Perkin Warbeck's pretensions.

⁷⁴ Graft. 871—2. Hall, 438. The admirers of grand ceremonials may see a detailed account of her splendid coronation, 4 Lell. Coll. 216—33. She is thus described, in her procession, the day before. 'She had a kirtle of white cloth of gold of Damascus, and a mantle of the same suit, furred with ermine, fastened before her breast with a great lace, curiously wrought of gold and silk, and rich knobs of gold, tasselled at the end. Her fair yellow hair hung down, plain, behind her back, with a calve of pipes over it. She had a circlet of gold, richly garnished with precious stones, on her head.' p. 219. At her coronation,

she wore a kirtle and mantle of purple velvet, furred with ermine, with a lace for the mantle. p. 222. Her sister Cecil bore her train.

⁷⁵ Graft. 877. Hall, 443. Bern. And. MS. 183. Pol. Virg. 579. Sir John Savage, who had also deserted Richard, just before the battle, did not long survive the earl. Riding out of his pavilion at Boulogne, he was suddenly trapped and taken; and, disdaining 'to be taken of such vileynne,' he endeavored to defend himself, and was killed. Graft. p. 895.

⁷⁶ Graft. 878. Pol. V. 580.

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abroad, going first into Portugal, suddenly appeared in Ireland; asserting, that he was the youthful son of the still-lamented Edward IV.

The Irish credulously welcomed him. The French king, then at variance with Henry, sent for him; assigned him a guard, and treated him as a prince. The English exiles that were abroad, hastened to him at Paris; and expeditions, that alarmed Henry into a hasty pacification with the French king, were publicly projected; but this treaty separating Charles from his interests, the pretending duke of York retired to the duchess Margaret. She received him with full recognition; gave him also a guard of honor, and called him The White Rose, prince of England⁷⁷.

This countenance, and the plausibility of his conversation, and the suitableness of his appearance to his pretensions⁷⁸, made such an impression in his favor, that it was received in England as an undoubted truth, that he was the real prince; and, therefore, anterior in right to the crown, to his sister Elizabeth. Not only the common people, but divers noble and worshipful men believed and affirmed it to be true⁷⁹. Seditions began now to spring up on every side. Many assembled in companies, and passed over to him in Flanders. Some, from real conviction, excited others to

⁷⁷ Graft. 896—8. Hall, 462—3. She pretended to be delighted to hear him, again and again, repeat the well-arranged story of his escape from the intended murderers; his wanderings in foreign lands, and his happy arrival in her dominions. Pol. V. 589.

⁷⁸ The account of Bernard Andreas is, that the king's French secretary, influenced by the duchess of Burgundy, became unfaithful to him; and, joining her faction, assisted her to set up this new adventurer, a native of Tournay, to whom Edward IV. had been godfather; and who had been educated in the kingdom, and was, therefore, well qualified to pass for his younger son. Hence, he was able to narrate, from his own observation and memory, the habit and actions of Edward IV.,

and of the king's friends and domestics, whom he had known in his childhood; and many true circumstances of times and places, besides what he also learnt from the information of others. MS. Domit. p. 210. So that no impostor could have been more judiciously selected.

⁷⁹ The statement which this person gave, of his pretended escape from the Tower, and subsequent flight to the king of Scotland, was, 'In my tender age, I was secretly conveyed over sea; where, after a time, the party that had me in charge suddenly forsook me. I was forced thereby to wander abroad, and to seek mean conditions for the sustaining of my life.' Bacon's Hist. p. 615. Speed, p. 757.

to befriend him: Many, from dissatisfaction to Henry, by whom, they thought, they had not been sufficiently rewarded; and not a few, from a desire to benefit by change and commotion⁸⁰. Two persons only were now surviving of the murderers of the young princes, sir James Tyrrel and John Dighton. The king committed them to the Tower; subjected them to examination, and circulated their confessions among the public⁸¹.

Henry placed vessels of war, and soldiers he could trust, to guard his coasts; and employed every agency and means to discover who this princely pretender really was. The result of his inquiries

⁸⁰ Pol. V. 590. Graft. 899. Sir Robert Clifford, and Sir William Burley, went over, to apprise the duchess of the feelings and intentions of the English friends to the new claimant.

⁸¹ I do not find, that a verbatim and official copy of their statements was published. Bacon says, 'They agreed both in a tale, as the king gave out, to this effect;' and then adds the narrative already stated in the reign of Richard III, p. 489. His lordship adds, 'Thus much was then delivered abroad, to the effect of those examinations. But the king, nevertheless, made no use of them in any of his declarations, whereby, as it seems, those examinations left the business somewhat more perplexed. John Dighton, who, it seemeth, spake best for the king, was forthwith set at liberty, and was the principal means of divulging this tradition.' p. 608. The withholding from the public, of their exact confessions, is something extraordinary, but may have arisen thus. Tyrrel, as a gentleman, would have as little to do with the actual manual murder, as possible. That he planned the deed, employed and sent in the agents, and glanced on the bodies, and then set off to Richard, was, probably, all he did. The disposal of the bodies, as the actual killing, he may have left to the men; and Miles Forrest, as the professional ruffian, may have been the one most active in burying the corpses. Dighton, less used to murder, may, like Macbeth, have been afraid, or averse, to

look again on what he had done, and left the burial to the rugged Forrest. On these suppositions, Dighton would not be able to have pointed out the exact spot where Forrest buried them; and the inability to produce the bodies, at that important crisis, may have alarmed Henry. Perkin said, he had been saved and conveyed away by one of the employed assassins. As the king, from the death of Forrest, could not produce the evidence of both these, that the princes were killed; the single evidence of Dighton, without the production of the remains, left a defect, that was not irreconcilable with Perkin's pretensions. Hence, the king was afraid of exposing to the verbal criticism of the public, at that moment, when so many were eager and interested to point out the smallest imperfection, the actual confessions. Unable then to find the bodies, he thought it better to circulate the substance of the depositions, and to add a report, which the murderers could not swear to, nor personally know, as they did not assist. That a priest had afterwards moved the bodies to another place. They who know, by experience, how written documents may be commented on by parties interested to support a particular case, and how much they may be perverted to mean something very different from their intended import, will best understand Henry's judgment, in not then submitting them to the inspection of his enemies.

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inquiries his ambassadors communicated to the Austrian duke of Burgundy; and solicited him to discountenance the imposture. His final answer to Henry, without deciding on the genuineness of the pretender, was, that he would not assist him, but could not prevent the lady Margaret from exercising her own discretion on the occasion⁸².

Henry, with great wisdom, endeavored to defeat the conspiracy, by the gentlest means. He persuaded Clifford to abandon it. He offered pardon and reward to all who would do the same; and obtaining the names of its supporters in England, he arrested lord Fitzwalter, two knights, four gentlemen, and six clergymen of rank⁸³, who abetted it. He forbade all trading to Flanders; and astonished the world, by arresting, on the accusation of Clifford, his former preserver, sir William Stanley, to whom he owed his throne. Stanley was confined to his own chamber in the Tower. The charge against him was, that he was secretly abetting the imposture, although in the confidential post of lord chamberlain to Henry⁸⁴. Henry, at first, would not believe it. When the truth became evident, he arrested sir William, who ingenuously confessed it.

⁸² Graft. 900—2. Pol. V. 592.

⁸³ These were, Sir William Rochford, doctor of divinity, and sir Thomas Poynes, both Dominicans; doctor William Sutton; sir William Worsley, dean of St. Pauls; and two others. Graft. 902. The two knights, and another, were beheaded; and the lord pardoned, till, attempting to escape to Perkin, he suffered also. Ib. Doctor Sutton was the parson of St. Stephen Walbrook. Fabian, 530.

⁸⁴ B. Andreas' information on sir William's alleged conspiracy, is, 'There were, then living, very learned and very religious men, who were taken up, as in the conspiracy with the chamberlain. Among these, was one who excelled in the knowledge of sacred literature, the provincial of the Dominicans; also, the dean of St. Pauls, doctor of divinity,

and some others. *All these either gave money to Perkin, or privately sent it to him, from others.* But the chamberlain, the richest of all, possessed great heaps of treasure, by which he had promised to bring him into the kingdom, and to defend him in it. Sir Robert Clifford communicated these facts to the king, who, as his wise custom was, first, most prudently investigated, whether what this person told him was true; and, having ascertained it to be so, then consigned his chamberlain to be punished by the laws.' MS. Dom. 18, p. 216, 217. This direct and decisive evidence shows, that sir William was planning to deal with Henry, as his brother, lord Stanley, had with Richard. Pol. Virgil mentions, that Clifford charged Stanley with being one of Perkin's allies. p. 593.

it⁸⁵. For this treachery he was arraigned at Westminster, adjudged to death; and suffered at Tower-hill on the 16th of February⁸⁶.

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The king now inflicted severities like those for which Richard had been reprobated. He caused divers persons to suffer condign punishment in England, for their seditious or disloyal expressions; and then sent an army into Ireland, under sir Edward Poynings, to destroy the supporters of his youthful competitor. Poynings assembled the Irish nobility, who gave him fair promises; but dreading his threats, withdrew into the woods and marshes of the country. Sir Edward attempted a vigorous pursuit, but found his force insufficient to act against them, in their fastnesses and retreats. He surprized the earl of Kildare; yet Henry thought it politic not only to release him, but to appoint him the lord lieutenant of the island⁸⁷.

The young adventurer at length sailed from Flanders; and on 1495. July. the 3d of July attempted to land at Deal in Kent⁸⁸. But finding, that a party which he landed, was attacked as enemies, he returned to Flanders, to consult on his further enterprize⁸⁹.

He sailed to Ireland, and thence passed into Scotland, where the young king James decided to receive him with honor, as the genuine duke of York; and to encourage his adherents, and evince

⁸⁵ Pol. V. 593. It is not probable, that sir William's declaration, That, if he were certain that Perkin was the son of Edward, he would never bear arms against him, was the only ground of Henry's severity, though this might be all that sir William chose publicly to say. Yet this speech implies, sufficiently, his adverse mind to Henry. No man, in Stanley's situation, and after Lambert's imposture, would have said so much, if he had not desired the success of the new plot, and to contribute to its prosecution.

⁸⁶ Graft. 905. Pol. V. 593. He is included in the act of attainder, (Stat. of the Realm, 2, p. 633) without a detail of his offence. It is

mentioned, that sir William had collected a treasure of 40,000 marks, in his castle at Holt-Stowe; and, from his tenantry, could have brought a large force into the field, against the king.

⁸⁷ Graft. 907, 8. Pol. V. 594, 5.

⁸⁸ Stat. Realm, 2, p. 633.

⁸⁹ Graft. 909. Pol. V. 596. Five captains, and 160 men, were taken. B. Andreas says, about 400. The king's speech, or rather prayer, on this advantage, which he adds, was an expression of gratitude and resignation to the Supreme, ending, 'No prosperity, no adversity, no chance, no time, no place, shall ever make us unmindful of Thee.' MS.

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evinced his own conviction, he married him to his near kinswoman, the earl of Huntley's daughter; and supplied him with an army to enter England by the northern borders⁹⁰.

His army plundered and ravaged in Northumberland; but, satisfied with their booty, would advance no further. No Englishmen welcomed the pretending prince; and on his return to Scotland, the king began to question his reality, and to relax in his behalf⁹¹. In January 1496, Henry apprized his parliament of the Scotch aggression⁹².

Lord Dawbeny was dispatched with an army towards Scotland; but the people of Cornwall, resenting a new taxation, assembled in a rebellion, formidable for its numbers, though not for their efficiency. They chose captains, and moved to Taunton. The king was alarmed to hear, that lord Audley and several of the minor nobility had joined them; and that they were marching to London. He called back lord Daubeney from the north, to meet them; while he commissioned the earl of Surrey to defend Durham and the Scottish borders⁹³.

June 22d.
Battle on
Blackheath.

The king, chusing to let their first impetuosity waste itself, the rebels marched, unopposed, to Wells, to Salisbury, to Winchester, and thence into Kent, and reached Blackheath. They were meditating to enter the metropolis, and attack the Tower; when the king, sending the earl of Oxford, with a select body of archers and men at arms, to take them in the rear, marched out of the city, to attack them in front. In the first assault, at Deptford bridge, they took lord Daubeney prisoner; but unexpectedly released him. The king had come upon them, on the 22d of June, two days earlier than he had threatened. They could not

⁹⁰ Graft. 912. Pol. V. 597. In this year died the duchess of York, mother of Edward IV. and Richard III. Hall, 472.

⁹¹ Graft. 912—14. Pol. V. 598. On Perkin's transactions in Scotland, see Bernard Andreas' MS. history, p. 218; and Hall, 473—6.

⁹² Rolls Parl. 6, p. 509.

⁹³ Graft. 916—17. Pol. V. 599, 600. During the quarrel with Scotland, all Scots, not denizens, were ordered to depart out of England within forty days. Stat. Realm, 2, p. 553.

not long resist his forces. They were soon dispersed; many killed, more taken, and Audley was hanged⁹⁴. The invasion of the Scots was repelled, and retaliated, by the earl of Surrey, till the king of Scotland agreed to a truce, and to convey Perkin Warbeck out of his dominions⁹⁵.

Perkin retired to Ireland, and endeavour to revive the rebellion in Cornwall⁹⁶. He called himself Richard IV. obtained some support, and assaulted Exeter. Repulsed there, he attempted Taunton; the Cornish men talked of being desperate; but when Henry's army was assembled under his most trusty noblemen, Perkin, afraid of risking a battle, suddenly destroyed all his own hopes, by flying at midnight, with sixty horsemen, over the country to Southampton. There he sought the shelter of the church, at Bewdley abbey; and soon, with subdued and desponding mind, submitted to the king, and was taken to London. He was carefully watched, but not harshly treated, till he escaped out of custody and reached the sea coast. Closely pursued, he retraced his steps; and solicited an asylum in the priory of Sheen, near Richmond. From this refuge, he was taken to London; set in the stocks a whole day, before the door of Westminster hall; exposed to the reproaches and insult of a deriding populace; and was carried through London the next day, to the same degradation at

⁹⁴ Graft. 920—2. Pol. V. 601—3. Stat. Realm, 2, p. 684.

⁹⁵ Perkin's volunteered statement to the Scottish king, and implied in his proclamation, that Edward V. was murdered, seems a deciding circumstance, to prove both his own imposture, and Richard's guilt. If, as some have surmised, Edward had died of illness and grief, and his brother had been conveyed away, by his uncle's orders, to foreign parts, Perkin, for the credit of the family, would have been taught so to state. But his calling Richard, in his proclamation, 'our unnatural uncle,' and adding to the same epithet, in Scotland, the additional

charge, that the king employed an instrument to murder them both; and that the assassin had cruelly slain Edward, but had preserved him; satisfactorily show, that no one then believed, that Edward V. died a natural death, and leave no doubt as to his own imposture; because, Richard and Tyrrel having, by his own statement, determined on their deaths, would have taken care to be sure, that the catastrophe they planned had been effected.

⁹⁶ He landed at Whitsun-bay there, 7 September 1497. Stat. Realm, 684. See Bern. And. MS. 219.

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at the standard in Cheapside, where he read a confession of his imposture, from a copy of his own writing⁹⁷. On that night, June the 15th, he was committed to the Tower. There Warwick, the son of Clarence, had been confined for fifteen years, by Henry, so continually secluded from all society, that his mind sank into such a state of fatuity, as to be unable, says the old chronicler, "to discern a goose from a capon." Yet, an Augustine fryar, attempting to engraft on his name, a new conspiracy against Henry, persuaded one of his scholars to personate him in Kent. But the fryar and his puppet were soon apprehended; the latter was hanged on Shrove Tuesday; the other doomed to perpetual imprisonment⁹⁸.

Perkin was enabled, by means unexplained, to bribe and interest three of his keepers, to let him and Warwick escape from the Tower. They were taken. Perkin was drawn to Tyburn, and there executed⁹⁹; and the son of Clarence, for having endeavored to escape with him, from an unjust confinement, was arraigned for high treason¹⁰⁰, confessed his effort to release himself; and for this offence,

⁹⁷ Pol. Virg. 608. Graft. The substance of the confession was, that he was born at Tournay; His father's name, John Osbecke, a controller of that town. That his mother placed him with a cousin, at Antwerp, to learn Flemish. Returning home, a merchant of Tournay took him again to Antwerp, where he became ill, and put him under a tradesman at Middleburgh. That he went afterwards to Portugal, in an English ship, and entered a knight's service at Lisbon; and that, attaching himself while there to a Breton, he went to Cork, where, because he wore silk clothes, the Irish would believe he was one of the Plantagenets; and urged him to pretend to be so. This confession makes no mention of his having been in England, under Edward IV.; nor of the duchess Margaret's concern with him. It seems to be a factitious paper, meant to throw the whole imposture on the Irish; and is not

reconcilable with the other facts about him, unless by supposing that they were intentionally suppressed. The end seems to have been, that, having ruined his character by his flight, even his former friends cared for him no more. This confession could only increase the public contempt for him, as an unsteady dastard, and as a juvenile impostor.

⁹⁸ Graft. 931. Pol. V. 608, 9.

⁹⁹ The discovery of the bones of children in the Tower, and the other facts mentioned in the preceding pages, remove, so satisfactorily, to my own judgment, all doubt of Richard's murder of his nephews, that I have no question, that Perkin was as complete an adventurer as Lambert Simnel.

¹⁰⁰ The poor helpless earl was charged with attempting to rescue Peter, and to make him king. Stat. Realm, 2, p. 684.

offence, was beheaded on the 28th of November, 1499¹⁰¹. This act too much resembles the worst deeds of Richard III. The earl's imprisonment was an act of violent injustice; and the execution of one so debilitated by it, was little less than legal murder. The private comforts of Henry afterwards began to lessen. His eldest son soon died; his own health gave way, and he was in his grave at fifty-two. But who can wear a crown gained in battle, and contested afterwards by disaffection, with innocence or happiness? Virtue and felicity are the guests of other homes.

It is remarkable, that in all the three impostures against Henry, there were literally a priest and a plot. A priest at Oxford trained Lambert Simnel; two Dominican fryars, a dean of St. Pauls¹⁰², a doctor of divinity, and other clergymen, were active supporters of Perkin Warbeck; and an Augustine friar, brought out the last pretender in Kent¹⁰³. These facts indicate an hostility in a part of the church against Henry; and lead the mind to inquire by what circumstances it was occasioned.

State and
reform of
the church.

Three questions early pressed upon Henry's attention, as to the church establishment. Was it to be permitted to keep its great property, which the laity wished to diminish and to share? Were its luxuries and the display of its affluence, so criticised by the rest of

¹⁰¹ Graft. 933. It was said, that the king of Spain had refused to wed his daughter with the king's eldest son, Arthur, while this heir to the house of York was alive. *Ib.* A reason for his execution, which doubles its guilt. Two years afterwards she came, and the nuptials took place; *ib.* 935; but the prince scarcely survived them a year.

¹⁰² This dean was, on the 13th November 1494, attainted of treason, but afterwards pardoned. *Stat. Realm*, 2, p. 619. Fabian calls him 'a famous doctor and preacher; the provincial of the Black Friars.' p. 530.

¹⁰³ Besides these, we have other indications of some part of the clergy persecuting Henry with conspiracies. The abbot of Abingdon

connected himself with Simnel's imposture, and Lincoln's rebellion; and, the 1st of January 1487, concerted, that J. Mayne should go to the earl abroad, and give him money for those purposes. This Mayne, on the 1st of December 1490, consulted with a priest, T. R., in London, to release Warwick from the Tower; and the priest went down to the abbot, to show him 'the clearness (that is, the innocence) of the said compassed treason.' After the abbot had seen this man, he told Mayne, that he was light witted; but he would reveal his mind to another person. They were all charged with conspiring to levy war against the king, on the 20th of December; and were attainted. *Rolls Parl.* 6, p. 436, 7.

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of society, to continue? Should its doctrines, discipline, authority and exerted power, remain unaltered? Of these momentous subjects, Henry did not venture to meddle with the first; he left the property of the church to be regulated by his successor: on the third, though he did not suppress, he did not encourage persecution; but on the second, the luxury and manners of the clergy, he felt himself strong enough, from the support of some of their wisest chiefs, to interfere, by positive and reforming regulations. Sincerely attached to religion himself, it was offensive to his own feelings and judgment, to see it connected with luxury and immorality, in its appointed teachers.

One of the first statutes of the king, was made "for the more sure and likely reformation of priests, clerks and religious men;" and authorized all bishops to punish them for any incontinence, by such imprisonment as they should think expedient¹⁰⁴. The pope, Innocent VIII. applauding Henry's anxiety for the increase of religion in his realm, complained very early in his reign, of the application of the strong hand of law to the clergy. He assured the king, that it was not without grief of heart he heard, that they had been sentenced by secular judges, to torture, to stripes, and even to the gibbet; and that the possessions of cathedrals, and the lands, not feudally held, of the bishops, had been confiscated, and this by the royal authority¹⁰⁵. We have not the sovereign's answer. But as in all instances of the treasonable priests, already alluded to, he took none of their lives, but was content with their being consigned to perpetual imprisonment; it is manifest that he yielded that deference to their asserted privileges, as to allow their order to exempt them from the punishment of death¹⁰⁶.

But

¹⁰⁴ Stat. of Realm, V. 2, p. 501. The additional provision of the act, That the prelates could not be chargeable with an action of false imprisonment, for so doing, implies, that before this act passed, the offending clergy resisted the right of their superiors to correct them.

¹⁰⁵ See his letter, dated 7 May, in Wilk. Concilia, 3, p. 616, 617.

¹⁰⁶ Grafton remarks, At that time, here, in England, so much reverence was attributed to the holy orders, that although a priest had committed high treason against his sovereign lord, and to all others, offenders in murder, rape,

But in the first convocation after Lambert's imposture, measures were begun for the reformation of the church. It was stated, that many presbyters badly conducted themselves; that they took their repasts in taverns, and sat there almost all the day¹⁰⁷. The rebuking letter of Morton, Henry's confidential archbishop¹⁰⁸, besides forbidding these practices, censured also their mode of wearing their hair, so as to conceal their tonsure; and also their having their garments open in front, so as to make little distinction between themselves and laymen, in their dress. He also prohibited their having swords, daggers or belts, or gold purses, or any ornaments of this precious metal. Their non-residences on their benefices, were also remarked and reprobated¹⁰⁹. Yet he obtained the grant of a subsidy for the king, and another in the following year¹¹⁰.

In 1489, Innocent VIII. granted the king an important bull for the reformation of the monasteries. In this he stated, that he had heard, that some monasteries, the Clugny, the Cistercians, the Premonstratenses, and various other orders, had relaxed their mode of living, and their appointed rules of observances, and their pious contemplations; and were leading a lascivious and too dissolute life. He therefore authorized the king to direct the archbishop to cause them all to be visited; and to reduce them to their true and ancient customs, all excuses set apart; and to cut off and punish all that should prove rebellious¹¹¹.

In

rape, or theft, yet the life was given, and the punishment of death released. p. 931.

¹⁰⁷ See the proceedings in convocation, 3 Wilk. Conc. 618, 619.

¹⁰⁸ It is dated 16 March 1486, in 3 Wilk. Conc. 619.

¹⁰⁹ Ib. 619, 620.

¹¹⁰ Ib. 621, 630. The king sanctioned an act, which made void all letters patent that exempted abbots, &c. from paying tenths. Stat. Realm, 2, p. 530. Another act, enforcing the same measure, annulled the instrument

of Edward IV. that discharged any spiritual persons from paying their tenths or fifteenths. Ib. 552.

¹¹¹ Wilkins has printed this bull, p. 631. Henry also obtained from the pope, in 1487, a bull, which Alexander VI. in June 1493, confirmed, for lessening the privileges of sanctuaries. If criminals ever left them, to commit fresh offences, the sanctuaries might be entered. They were to protect persons only, not goods; and the king might send keepers, to watch traitors in them. 12 Rym. 541. Henry afterwards acted with less scruple

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In the next year Morton exerted his intrusted powers on the celebrated abbey of St. Albans. It has been doubted if the monks, before their dissolution, were so profligate as they have been often depicted. The letter of Morton to the abbot of St. Albans, must end all doubt on this subject¹¹². He tells the abbot, that he has been accused of simony, usury, the dilapidations of the goods and possessions of the monasteries; and was noted for some other enormous crimes; that not only he the abbot, but not a few also of his fellow monks, were leading a vicious life, and frequently profaned the sacred places, by shedding of blood and unchastity. He specifies the loose women, whom he had introduced as nuns into the convent, and the profligate practices that he and others were pursuing¹¹³. He commands him to make an effective reformation within sixty days, on pain of further proceedings, in case he should be disobedient or contumacious. Morton was strenuous in pursuing his ecclesiastical reformatations. Differences arose between him and his brother prelates¹¹⁴ upon them, and his life was endangered¹¹⁵. But after Morton's death, in 1500, the ecclesiastical luxury was still repressed; for a year afterwards, "the gray friars were compelled to wear their old russet habit, as the sheep doth dye it¹¹⁶". Other dissensions prevailed among the clergy¹¹⁷.

The

scruple towards these abused asylums; some of whose privileges lasted even to our own times. In 1504, Julius II. granted a bull, that persons suspected of high treason might be taken out to be judged, if not convicted before. 13 Rym. Fed. 104.

¹¹² It is dated in 1490, and printed in Wilkins, p. 632. In this, he calls himself 'visitor, reformer, inquisitor, and judge.' Ib.

¹¹³ Ib. 632. The privileges claimed by the church was also restricted, by the benefit of clergy being ordered to be allowed, only once, to persons not in actual orders. Stat. Realm, 538.

¹¹⁴ Fabian remarks, that in July 1494, Dr. Draper was borne, by force, out of St. Paul's, 'for a variance that there was

between the bishops of Canterbury and London'. p. 530.

¹¹⁵ The Statute on conspiracies by the king's servants, to murder his counsellors, or great officers, (Stat. Realm. 2. p. 521.) is said to have been passed, from Morton's danger from some 'mortal enemies in court.' Lord Bacon, p. 594.

¹¹⁶ Fab. 533.

¹¹⁷ Thus, in 1494, 'Dr. Hill, bishop of London, pursued grievously the prior of Christ Church in London.' Fab. 529. And, in March 1502, 'the prior of the Chartreux at Sheen, with another monk of that house, was murdered by the sinister means of a monk of the same place, and other mischievous persons.' Ib. 534.

The king, venturing upon these innovations on a body so powerful, will fully account for the impostors, that were sent abroad to dethrone him, being countenanced or contrived by members of the church. But the spirit of improvement had awakened; and another instance of it was the papal limitation of the power of making saints. By his bull on this subject, in 1494, the pope confines it to the pontifical chair alone; and specifies the regulations under which they were, from that time, to be created¹¹⁸.

Yet Henry found it necessary not to prevent the church from occasional persecutions of heresy. In April 1494, he suffered an old woman to be burnt for heresy¹¹⁹; and two years afterwards, we read, that many lollards stood with faggots at St. Paul's cross¹²⁰. As it is not said that they were destroyed, the king may have compromised with the establishment, to permit this exhibition to deter, without allowing them to be killed. This ceremony of menace was repeated in 1498, with twelve persons accused of heresy¹²¹; but in the next year, "an old heretic" was, in Smithfield, consumed by the flames¹²². In the lent of 1505, a prior, with five other heretics, were exposed, with indignity, at St. Paul's¹²³.

The two great objects of foreign policy, which occupied the anxious attention of Henry, were, the preservation of Flanders and Bretagne from being united with France. The French government pressed zealously forwards to both these objects; and the hostilities maintained by the towns of Ghent and Bruges, against their duke Maximilian, assisted this ambition. Charles VIII. sent an army of 8,000 men from France, under the lord Cordes, to assist the revolting towns, and to conquer Flanders. Henry reinforced lord Dawbeny, his governor at Calais, with 1,000 archers and soldiers, who, with the flower of the garrison, joined the troops of Maximilian, at Newport. Their united force, not 3,000 men,

His foreign
politics.

¹¹⁸ See all the rules laid down by the pope, in the document printed in Wilkins, V. 3. p. 636—9.

¹¹⁹ Fabian, 529.

¹²⁰ Ib. 531.

¹²¹ Ib. 532.

¹²² Ib. 532.

¹²³ Ib. 535.

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men, marched towards the French intrenchments at Dixmude, which 4,000 of the disaffected Flemings had reinforced. The English were conducted, unperceived, to one point of the fortified encampment; and moving rapidly to the part where the artillery was posted, immediately attacked it. This policy was to discharge, with a steady effect, their arrows, and then fall prostrate, while the ordnance fired over them; to rise again, and shoot while the cannon was re-loading; and then to charge, before the foe recovered from the fatal effects of the arrows. Another division of the English waded the ditch, which the Germans leapt over with their Moorish pikes; and after suffering a loss of 8,000 men, the French party abandoned their guns and camp. Cordes, to balance this defeat, with 20,000 troops, attempted Newport, and carried the tower; but a bark, with eighty fresh English archers arriving at a critical moment, the besieged rallied, and recovered the tower; and the French believing, that a great English army had landed, abandoned their enterprize in despair¹²⁴. As Maximilian was the son of the emperor of Germany, the policy of Henry was enabled, in this quarter, to counteract effectually the French ambition. By sir Edward Pownings, he took Sluys, “the den of thieves, to those who traversed the seas towards the east parts” or the German ocean, and the Baltic; and by his co-operation, the province of Flanders was reduced to the authority of Maximilian¹²⁵.

The efforts of Henry to prevent Bretagne from being incorporated with the French monarchy, were less successful. When Charles VIII. with whom Henry had made friendly truces¹²⁶, in 1487, pursued his quarrel with this duchy, with the hope of mastering

¹²⁴ Graft. 880—2. Hall, 446. Pol. V.

¹²⁵ Graf. 890. Holl, 452. Pol. V. On Henry's transactions with France and Maximilian, see B. Andreas contemporary account. MS. Dom. 193—202. For a minute detail of all the circumstances, I would refer the reader to Rapin's History of England; and

for a more succinct and correct one, to his *Abrege Historique des Actes Publics*, V. 2. p. 516—20.

¹²⁶ See them in Rymer's *Fed.* 12. p. 277, 281, 344, dated 12 Oct. 1485, and 17 Jan. 1486, and 14 July 1488. The last extended to 17 Jan. 1490.

mastering it, Henry endeavored to act as the mediator¹²⁷; and unwilling, as well from gratitude to Charles, as from his wise system of peace with other countries, to plunge into a serious war with France, he discountenanced sir Edward, now lord Woodville, the valiant and chivalric brother of lord Rivers, who attempted, unauthorized, with 400 men, to assist the Breton duke, by whom in his necessities, he had been so kindly entertained¹²⁸. Losing this opportunity of securing the attachment of the Bretons, and of defeating the French project; he left the forces of Bretagne to fight, unsupported by him, an unequal battle with the power of Charles, and to be defeated¹²⁹. The duke dying, Henry perceived his error, and resolved to assist the young duchess, his daughter, now the sovereign of Bretagne, with troops¹³⁰; but not really pledging the force and vigor of England in the effort, he preferred negotiations¹³¹, to defer what he could not prevent; and amid this hesitating defence, the French obtained an ascendancy in the country, which they never lost¹³². Charles amused Henry, with ambassadors; and the pope's legate, by attempting a mediation, paralyzed the arm of England. The French king was, in the mean time, bribing the Breton nobility, and paying assiduous attentions to Anne, the heiress of the province¹³³. Maximilian, also

¹²⁷ Henry's mediatorial commissions are dated 7 March and 11 December 1488. Rymer, 12, p. 337, 347.

¹²⁸ Hall. 439. Pol. Vir.

¹²⁹ This was the battle of St. Aubin du Cormier, fought 27 July 1488, in which lord Woodville fell. Hall, 441.

¹³⁰ On 23 December 1488, Henry issued the order to raise troops for her succour, which is in Rymer, 12—355; and on 10 Feb. 1489, he covenanted, by a treaty, to send her 6,000 men, for which she was to pay, and to give two towns as a pledge for their payment. She was not to make peace without his consent, nor he to renew a truce with France,

without comprising her. See the treaty in Rym. p. 362.

¹³¹ See the commissions and documents on these, during 1490, 1491, in Rymer, V. 12. p. 449, 453, 431, 435.

¹³² There seems to have been too much anxiety in Henry to be repaid his expences, and too much caution in the government of Bretagne against him. Before his troops were admitted into Nantz, an oath was exacted from him, that they should go out at the first request. Rym. p. 452; and she agreed to deliver to him Morlaix, but to have its revenues, on paying him 6,000 gold crowns a year, p. 488.

¹³³ Graft. 872—6. Hall, 449.

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also wooed, and was privately contracted or married to her by proxy¹³⁴; but after some vacillations she decided the competition, by annulling her engagement with Maximilian, and giving her hand, and with that, the duchy, to Charles¹³⁵. Henry attempted in vain, to prevent its absorption into the French monarchy. In 1491, he raised an army, expecting a coinciding force from Maximilian; but this prince was unable to raise one. Disappointed of his concurrence, Henry resolved to make a descent on France himself; and on the 6th of October, passed over with his army to Calais, and there encamped. Charles again had recourse to embassies and negotiations. Henry put on a warlike semblance, and besieged Boulogne; but the prize was gone. The marriage of the heiress had united it irrecoverably with the French crown. Nothing could sever them, but battles like those of Poitiers and Agincourt, and campaigns as successful afterwards, as those of Henry V.; and what he could accomplish, with the aid of Burgundy, against discontented France, in its then inferior state, was impracticable now, in her palmy state of strength, union, valor and compact dominion¹³⁶, and with the Breton nobility favoring the annexation. Henry, but unfirmly seated for some time on his own throne, felt himself unequal to dissolve an union which he might at one time have prevented; and making a peace with

¹³⁴ This was in November 1489. It was not communicated to Henry till the ensuing February 1491, on which he issued new commissions of negotiation. Rym. 12. p. 435—8. In the last she is called queen of the Romans; so that there was too much Machiavellian politics used on all sides. I suspect, that the Breton government thought Henry wanted to ally the duchy to England, as much as Charles sought to add it to France; while Maximilian wished to annex it to his dominions. All the four parties were finessing with each other, till Charles VIII. won both the golden apple and the Venus.

¹³⁵ Graft. 885—8. Hall, 451. He mar-

ried her 16 Dec. 1491. The only effectual means by which Henry could have defeated Charles VIII's annexation of Bretagne to France, was by marrying the heiress himself; and Bernard Andreas says, that, before he left Bretagne, Frances had often proposed this to him; 'sepius orando contendisset.'—MSS. Dom. A. 18. p. 168. But on this subject Henry's hand was tied. His nuptials with Elizabeth were the price of his English crown; and the nation called upon him to sacrifice all foreign interest to their domestic policy.

¹³⁶ Graft. 890—5.

with Charles, who agreed to reimburse his expences, he retired from the contest¹³⁷; leaving France to consolidate its acquisition of a peninsular line of coast from Dol to the Loire; which includes Brest, the greatest station of the French navy, the useful roads of the Isles of Ushant, and the convenient ports of St. Malo and L'Orient¹³⁸. The maritime results of this incorporation, have given a vigor to the power of France, more effective than it derived from the addition of Normandy or Guyenne, which it had wrested before, from the misdirected government of England, under Henry VI. and the Suffolk administration¹³⁹.

¹³⁷ One document in Rymer intimates, that Charles VIII. was to pay Henry 620,000 gold crowns, which the duchess owed him for his army, and 125,000 for the arrears of the pension of Louis XI. Rym. p. 490. The actual treaty d'Étaples, between Charles and Henry, dated 3 Sept. 1492, does not mention these payments. Its chief articles are, that the peace should last to the death of both the kings; and that it should comprize the king of the Romans and his son, p. 497. But by the conventions of the 3d of November and 10th of December, Charles became bound to pay the above sums, by 25,000 livres every half year. p. 506. He submitted to be excommunicated, if he failed. p. 509. There are receipts for these payments every half year, till Charles died. Ib. p. 527, &c. There

are also receipts for them from Louis XII. up to Henry's death. p. 700, &c. Pope Alexander VI. granted a bull of excommunication against Louis, if he should fail. p. 762.

¹³⁸ In October 1491, the chancellor's speech, on the opening of Parliament, stated, that the king had cause of war with France, for the dissimulation and dead faith of its government, but thought it right to temporise. Roll. Parl. 6, p. 440. He made a preliminary treaty with this country, on 3 Nov. 1492, but it was not finally ratified till Oct. 1495. Ib. 507.

¹³⁹ The king landed at Dover, on his return from his ineffectual expedition to France, on 17 Dec. 1492. Fab. 529.

HISTORY

OF

ENGLAND.

CHAP. VII.

FOREIGN ALLIANCES OF HENRY VII. HIS CHARACTER;
PUBLIC VIEWS; DEATH; AND BENEFICIAL LAWS.BOOK
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HENRY made an alliance with Ferdinand and Isabella, against France¹; but his intercourse with the court of Spain, had little other result than cordial civilities, and a contract of marriage between their daughter Catherine and his eldest son Arthur². He made also alliances with the duke of Milan, the king of Naples, the bishop of Liege, the archduke Philip, whom his father Maximilian, had set over the Low Countries, and the duke of Saxony, the governor of Friesland³. He concluded a perpetual peace with the king of Denmark, and with Portugal⁴; and treaties of commerce with the republic of Florence, and with the Low Countries⁵. He also negotiated with the city of Riga, concerning

¹ See it in Rymer, p. 417, and the public papers upon it, 410—3. The kingdom of Spain was consolidated by the taking of Granada from the Moors, 25 November 1491. Hall, 453. On 26 Nov. 1504, Ferdinand announced to Henry, that his queen Isabella had died that day, by his letter in Rymer, 13. p. 112; and that she had appointed him the governor of her kingdom of Castile for their daughter Joan.

² The marriage is first mentioned in the treaty of 7 May 1489, ratified 20 Sept. 1490. Ib. p. 417.

³ See these in Rymer, 12, p. 429, 720, 785, 576, and 13, p. 120.

⁴ Rym. 12, p. 374, 387.

⁵ Ib. 12, p. 389, and 13, p. 132. One article allows the fishers of both nations to fish freely in every place, without licence or passport.

concerning some of its ships which English cruisers had taken⁶. He was empowered to assist Ladislaus, king of Hungary, with money, against the Turks⁷.

The pacification with Scotland ended, after much negociation⁸, in a marriage between its sovereign James IV. and Margaret, the eldest daughter of Henry⁹; an important union, as it occasioned the house of Stewart to succeed to the English crown. The marriage of Catherine, the princess of Spain, with Arthur, was also accomplished¹⁰. She landed at Plymouth, the 4th of October 1501¹¹; and on the 12th of November, made her entry from Lambeth into the metropolis¹². She was soon after married to the prince, then but fourteen years old. He lived only a few months, after these premature nuptials¹³; and Henry his brother, who had been made duke of York, was now declared prince of Wales¹⁴; and by a dispensation from the pope, was soon afterwards wedded to his brother's widow¹⁵; an union which ended in that celebrated

⁶ Rym. 12, p. 701.

⁷ Ib. 13, p. 4, 5.

⁸ See these at first in 1487 with James III. in Rymer, 12, p. 328, and after his death in many truces in the same volume. In 1497 Henry issued letters patent, agreeing that his differences with Scotland, should be determined by the judgment of Ferdinand and Isabella, p. 671.

⁹ A pope's bull of dispensation was on 4 kal. Aug. 1500, obtained for this marriage. Rym. p. 765. The treaty of marriage, dated 24th of January 1502, is in p. 787. The lady was only 12 years old on the 29th of November 1501, but Henry was not to be obliged to send her before the 1st of September 1503.

¹⁰ She was the fourth daughter of Ferdinand and Isabella. Her portion was to be 200,000 crowns of gold, one-half to be paid on her reaching England, and the rest in two years. Her dowry was to be 23 or 25,000 crowns. Rym. 417. See also the official instrument, p. 754, 780.

¹¹ Fab. 533.

¹² Graft. 935. For a full and picturesque account of her reception in England, and of the jousts and banquets given on the occasion, which are curious for displaying the expiring ceremonies of chivalry; see the MS. detail printed by Hearne, in 5 *Lel. Collect.* 352—373.

¹³ He died on the 2d of April 1502. There is a full detail of his state interment printed by Hearne, 5 *Lel. Col.* 373.

¹⁴ The patent so creating her, dated the 26th of June 1502, is in Rymer, 13, p. 11. On the 24th of October 1503, Henry VII. made a treaty with her parent, for marrying Catherine to his son, afterwards Henry VIII. It is like the one for Arthur, excepting that Henry had received half her portion. Rym. 13, p. 36.

¹⁵ This bull, which became the subject of so much discussion, on Henry VIII's divorce, dated 7 kal. Jan. 1503, is in Rymer, 13 p. 88.

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celebrated divorce, to which the Protestant religion owed its first legal establishment in England. Arthur's mother rapidly followed him to the grave¹⁶, and Henry began afterwards to negotiate for another wife¹⁷; but either his illness or Philip's death, the brother of the intended queen, changing this intention, he made a treaty of marriage between his second daughter Mary, and Charles, then archduke of Austria and prince of Spain, who reigned afterwards the celebrated emperor Charles V.¹⁸. This prince was then only seven years old. It was actually solemnized at the end of 1508, by his substitute, who kissed the lady and put a ring on her finger¹⁹.

It was in March 1501, that sir James Tyrrell, the principal murderer of Edward V. was arrested, with his eldest son, on a charge of treason; and on the 6th of May following, perished on the scaffold. He was connected with the last insurrectionary attempt of any of the nobility. The earl of Suffolk, a descendant of the ill-fated minister of Henry VI, and son of a sister of Edward IV. enraged, because he had been compelled, by Henry's impartial justice, to stand a trial for killing a person in his passion, quitted England to join the old duchess of Burgundy. Pardoned

¹⁶ On the merits of this princess, it is just to her to add, the testimony of Bernard Andreas. 'From her youth, her veneration for the Supreme, and devotion to him, were admirable. Her love to her brothers and sisters, was unbounded. Her affection and respect to the poor, and to religious ministers, were singularly great.' MS. ib. p. 168.

¹⁷ The commission to John Young, concerning this incident, dated 10 May 1506, is in Rym. 12, p. 127. The lady was Margaret of Austria, sister of Philip, then the governor of the Low Countries. Her dowry was to have been 300,000 French crowns, and an annuity, during the marriage, of 3,850 more, Ib. But Philip died that year, and the treaty was not completed.

¹⁸ By the treaty signed at Calais, 21st December 1507, the marriage was to take place

by before Easter 1508, on pain of heavy penalties. Her dowry was to have been 250,000 crowns of gold. Rym. 12, p. 171. On 26th October 1508, an instrument was signed by Maximilian and Charles, appointing a lord of Bergen-op-Zoom to attend to solemnize these nuptials in the name of Charles; and it mentions, that Henry's illness, from which he had recovered, had occasioned the delay of the ceremony. Ib.

¹⁹ The official instrument stating this, and the words of their mutual affiance, on 17th of December 1508, is in Rym. 12, p. 236.—Charles, with permission of his grandfather Maximilian, pledged to Henry a jewel, called, 'the rich fleur de lys,' weighing in its gold and stones 211 ounces, for 50,000 crowns. Ib. 239.

by Henry's clemency, he again allied himself with her, in enmity against the king. This conduct excited Henry to arrest those who were accused of hostility against him. Some were imprisoned; and Tyrrell, with others, executed²⁰.

In estimating the character and reign of Henry, too narrow views have been taken; and the difficulties amid which he had to act, have not been sufficiently contemplated.

He may be considered as the great re-founder of the English monarchy. He terminated the agitations and danger of the throne, which had almost become a polish sovereignty: an aristocracy of many petty kings, obeying the nominal and paramount one no longer than they pleased; and chusing or deposing him, and changing the dynasty, as it chanced to gratify their passions or to suit their varying interests. This power and custom disappeared from England, after Henry VII. had acceded. The great nobility shook and disposed of the crown no more; though various attempts were made against Henry, to renew such anti-national disorders. He gave the English crown a permanent stability; and he meant to do so. One of his greatest aims was to rescue it out of the dictatorial tyranny, both of the nobility and the church establishment, who had each at various periods, chained, threatened, and subverted it; and to rest it on the general interests and affections and prosperity of the country. He considered the whole nation as one great family, headed by himself; and he depressed the two classes that had so long maintained a disproportionate degree of power, to the prejudice of the universal improvement and comfort.

These plans necessarily produced much obloquy; yet even in his own days, his merit was felt amid all the opposing interests and prejudices that attacked him; and he died with the epithet fixed upon him, of a second Solomon²¹. He was so respected abroad, that

²⁰ Graft, 937—9.

²¹ Fabian, then alive, says, 'he may most congruently, above all earthly princes, be called

the second Salomon, for his great sapience and acts.' p. 537.

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that three popes of Rome elected him, before all the other reigning kings, as the "chief defensor" of christendom; and sent him by three successive embassies, three swords and caps of maintenance²². He conquered his numerous enemies, "by his great policy and wisdom, more than by shedding of blood or cruel war"²³.

It was essential to his great public objects, that he should break down the power of the unruly aristocracy, which was reviving in new trunks and ramifications, from the injuries it had received during the civil wars. He saw, that one necessary means was, to wean the minds of Englishmen from that love of war, to which their courage and activity of spirit made them at that time so peculiarly prone; and the education for which, made his nobility too martial for the safety of the throne, and for the tranquillity of the kingdom. With this view, he not only professed to love and seek peace, and made it, as lord Bacon says²⁴, the usual preface in his treaties, that when Christ came into the world, peace was sung by angels; and when he left it, he bequeathed peace as their great characteristic to all his followers; but he also caused his chancellor to give his parliament, one of the wisest lectures on the only just causes of war, that it had ever, up to that time, heard²⁵.

Henry was not averse to state, but he used it for its kingly effect and public utility, not for his personal exaltation²⁶. He made his royal ceremonials auxiliary to his great design of occupying, civilizing, and weakening his nobility; and weaning them from that turbulence

²² Fabian, 537.

²³ Ib.

²⁴ Bacon, 635.

²⁵ See it in Parl. Rolls, 6, p. 440.

²⁶ Grafton mentions, 'He so much abhorred pride and arrogance, that he was ever sharp and quick to them which were noted or spotted with that crime.' p. 948.

²⁷ Grafton adds, 'There was no man with him, though never so much in his favor, or having never so much authority, that either durst or could do any thing as his own phantasie did serve him, without the consent or agreement of the other.' p. 948.

²⁸ The stately splendor in which he indulged his nobility and people, perhaps, more than himself, may be seen in his manner of holding his royal feasts at Christmas, 4 Lel. Col. 234—7; and at Easter, and St. George, and Whitsuntide, 238—248; on the queen's taking her chamber, at her lying-in, 249; and on the creation of Arthur prince of Wales, 250; and the christening of the princess, 20—7; on the fiancial of this lady with the king of Scotland, 258—64; and on her departure from England, and marriage in Scotland, 265—300.

turbulence, in which they had till his reign, chiefly sought their consequence, and employed their time. The splendid exhibitions caused an emulous rivalry, which exhausted their means, but satisfied their vanity; and the joust and tournament which he patronized, the harmless semblance of war and peaceful fountains of popular applause, gave them enough of the bustle and parade of military dress and display, to keep them from the reality, and to supersede the desire for its occurrence. Their tastes, by this wise management, increased for peaceful grandeur, and domestic comforts; and his reign may be considered as the completion of that transition of the warring baron, to the pompous lord, which has since advanced to the elegant gentleman and highly cultivated mind.

It was Henry's steady and determined pursuit of this great object, and the effective means which he adopted for attaining it, which has given that pecuniary reproach to his character, that has been so often repeated by misconception and by rote. It is as true of greatness as of war, that money is its sinews; therefore, when Henry caused the illegal actions of his nobility and gentry, to be pursued and punished by fines, he took the most effectual way to disable and reduce them to that subordination, which the common welfare demanded. It was their revenues, which annexed to their arm and voice, such multitudes of retainers; and which had so often enabled them to stand embattled against the crown. Hence, when lord Oxford, on receiving a visit from Henry, chose to display a military retinue which alarmed the king, although he was told, that they were not usually attendant, but had been specially provided to do him honor; he wisely replied, although to a friend, "My lord! I must not suffer my laws to be broken, in my presence—my attorney general must speak to you about this;" and this legal officer enforced the subsisting statutes, that forbad retainers, so effectually against the earl, that he was obliged to pay a fine of 15,000 marks²⁹. The true friend of the crown could

²⁹ Bacon, 630.

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could not have made the king's visit, the pretence of reviving the proud custom of numerous retainers. It was an act of selfish display, that would have been eagerly imitated, on other pretexts, if the present attempt had been passed over unpunished³⁰. We may regard, with few exceptions, Henry's enforcement of pecuniary penalties, as part of his wise means to disable faction and oppression; though the very good he achieved by it, created in his own time, the imputation from those whom it corrected, that avarice, and not the public benefit, was his motive³¹. When we read in a writer, who was present at the time, that lord Strange, the son of Stanley, brought to the king, before the battle of Stoke, a great host, only from his father's folks and his own, sufficient of themselves to have beaten all the king's enemies³²; we cannot but feel that the crown was in continual jeopardy, while any nobleman could, from his own resources, raise such a force.

Another direction of his public care, was to make the law the universal, impartial, silently-ruling, but irresistible sovereign of all classes of the community. The great and restless disliked, but the people at large always love, the reign and exercise of law. It is the only weapon by which the inferior and the weak can safely and effectually combat against power. It is at once the shield and sword of all, in their civil transactions; and that it might become

³⁰ That Henry prosecuted, to the fines and penalties he levied, for the purpose of humbling those who were too great, or too violent, for the good of all, is not the fancy of the present writer. It was his own account of his motives. Our old chronicler had mentioned this fact. 'He did use his rigour only, *as he said himself*, to bring low and abate the high stomachs of the wild people, nourished and brought up in seditious factions and civil rebellions, and not for the greedy desire of riches, or hunger of money.' Graft. 949.

³¹ So Grafton intimates. 'Such as were afflicted, would cry out and say, that it was

done more for the desire of gain and profit, than for any prudent policy or politic provision.' p. 949.

³² 4 *Lel. Collect.* p. 213. How greatly the penalties exacted from the nobility, must have weakened their power, we may judge from observing, that one of the articles in Empson's account of the sums he received, is '69,900*l.*, the condemnation of lord Bergavenny, for such retainers as he was indicted for in Kent.' Harl. MS. N^o 1,877. The same MS. shows, that lord Stanley was fined 6,000*l.*

become so, it was necessary to reduce, and to accustom, the higher orders to its domination; and to cause all ranks to feel, in order that all might recognize and obey, its authority and corrective force. To produce this effect, was another great cause of the king's enforcing the legal penalties. It was as important to deter the smaller orders from joining the wealthier, or the disaffected, as to abase and circumscribe those. Every insurrection exhibits to us a long train of minor names, who chiefly pursued it; and especially after the great lords became more cautious, and put their inferiors forward into the front of the battle. The public peace could not therefore be secured, until the middling and lower orders had been taught to know, that the arm of law could reach them, and to dread its inflictions. Viewed in this light, what has been called his avarice, was in truth, his clemency, mildness and enlightened judgment; and his penal severities were often mitigated by an active kindness towards the offending³³. He found the fines also useful in preventing those taxations which, though often imposed under other sovereigns, had twice caused insurrections in the country.

That the king expressly acted on the principle of making the law the master of all, we see by the speech he caused to be made to the parliament, in January 1503, on the inestimable value to every state, of justice and law. The chancellor enforced on their attention, that justice was the queen of the virtues; that without it kingdoms were but great dens of robbers; that all states were upheld by the laws, and that justice was their architect; that it was the most honorable, the most useful, and the most pleasant of all things. His eloquent oration, ending with this peroration from St. Austin; "Despise dungeons, despise bonds, despise exile, despise death—but let all men love justice:" is said to have had a wonderful

³³ So Grafton. 'To this severity was joined a certain merciful pity, which he did often show to such as had offended, and were amerced. For, such of his subjects as were

finned by his justices, to their great impoverishing, he, at one time or another, did help, relieve, and set forward.' p. 949.

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a wonderful effect in animating the distinguished hearers, to an ardent attachment to this great social virtue³⁴.

But it is not probable, from the usual effect of human imperfections, that the king could have always pursued his wisest objects, or had them enforced, in an unexceptionable manner. Misinformation, wrong judgment, frauds of others, occasional passion in himself, official harshness in executing right sentences, abuse of legal power in those who enforced it, would not unfrequently convert law into tyranny; and useful fines into oppressive exactions. Law is a weapon ever liable to be misused; and severe are the wounds of its unprincipled blows. Many grievances, therefore, must have accompanied Henry's legal inflictions; and the experience of human nature assures us, that the accumulation of treasure tends as much to increase the desire, as to lessen the delicacy, as to the means of acquiring it. Hence, when it is said, that the king allowed or encouraged Empson and Dudley, his lawyers, to indict "divers subjects accused of sundry crimes," to extort great fines³⁵; and that they executed their commission, with an insatiable and oppressive rapacity, that blemished his own character; some portion of their misconduct may be attributable to himself; to his regard rather to the pecuniary results, than the justice of the prosecutions. He may have occasionally forgotten the Ciceronian maxim, which all ages concur to verify; that the *Summum Jus*, becomes also the *Summa Injustitia*³⁶.

Henry

³⁴ See the speech in *Rolls Parl.* 6, p. 520. Grafton notices, that 'He was an indifferent and sure justicier, by the which one thing he allured to him the hearts of many people, because they lived quietly and in rest, out of all oppression and molestation of the nobility and rich persons.'

³⁵ Bacon, 629. The king was reported to have left 1,800,000*l.* sterling in his treasury. *Ib.* 635.

³⁶ Among the Harleian MS. in the British Museum, is one of the accounts of Dudley, of the fines and dues he received, which we

shall transcribe. It discovers one fact, not exclusively attributable to Henry, but belonging to the age; that a number of offices were purchased or paid for by money, which ought never to have been venal.

'Here followeth all such obligations and *Empson's* money, as sir Edmond Dudley have rece. of any person, for any fine or duty to be paid to the use of our sovereign, Henry VII. since the first time that I, the said Edmond, entered the service of our said sovereign, that is, the 9th September, 20 year; all which obligations and sums, I, said Edmond, have delivered

Henry was not an old man when he died³⁷; but the infirmities of age advanced prematurely upon him. In a letter to his mother,

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delivered to our said sovereign, and to John Heron, to the use of his highness. And so, at this quote day, the *24th January, the year aforesaid*, there remains, in my keeping and custody, no obligation, and no sums.

Churchwarden of St. Stephens, Coleman-street, in hand, 25*l.*; 25*l.* by obligation.

Carell and his son, for their pardons, 1,000*l.*

Recognizance, 900*l.* 100*l.* in money.

21 H. VII. City of London, for the confirmation of their liberties, 5,000 marks, by fine.

Several obligations for Richard Corson.

John Arundel, for his discharge of a certain sum, claimed to be due.

Sir James Tyroll, 100 marks.

R. Buckhard, for the office of customarship in the port of London, 125 marks, money; 125 marks by obligation.

J. Warwick, 100 marks, money; 100 marks by obligation; and 20*l.*; for license to make clerks.

Merchant Tailors, for the charter of their liberties being inrolled in London, 100*l.* money.

For pardon of M. Curtis, late customar of London, for discharge of his offences in the office, received 500 marks.

J. W. for a bailiwick, 20 marks, money.

Office of keeping the great wardrobe, granted to A. W. 200*l.*

22 H. VII. License to C. Brandon, to marry lady Mortimer, 40*l.*

Form of your average of London, 20*l.*

Alderman, for your gracious favor in his being sheriff, 100*l.* money.

Restitution of bishop of Ely to his temporalities, 3,800*l.* obligation; 2,000 marks, money.

Your clerkship of Hull, 106*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*

Prior, for amortizing and appropriation of a priory in Essex, 400*l.*

Adventurers, for king's favor, going to Flanders, 200*l.*

Alderman of London, for liberty to be mayor of the staple at Westminster, for life, 100*l.*

23 H. VII. Men of London, incorporated, for 20*l.*—Delivered to king his great books, called 'Jura Regalia.'

For one Ratclyff, for the office of clerk of the records in the Tower, 20*l.* money.

Pardons of Knosworth, 500*l.*; Shore, 500*l.*

Grove, 133*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*; Alderman of London, 1,033*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*

To be porter of Calais, 200*l.*

Bishop of Durham, an indenture, by which he was bound to pay king 20,000*l.*

Abbot of Cistercians, for confirmation of their franchises and privileges, and to use their free elections without license, 5,000*l.*

Cardinal B. Bath, according to agreement, 500*l.*

P. C. for his pardon, 300 marks; obligation, 1,000*l.*

P. H. shall ship so much merchandizes in three years, as he shall pay, for the customs and subsidies thereof, 1,000*l.* to the king's coffers.

Bishop of Bath, 100*l.* a year, so long as he shall be bishop.

J. Y. pardon, 500 marks.

Discharge for buying certain alloms, contrary to restraint, 200*l.*

License for butt of malmsey, 5*l.*

Ditto, 210 butts, 70*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.*

Delivered three exemplifications, under the seal of king's bench, of the condemnation of the lord Bergavenny, for such retainers as he was indicted of in Kent, amounting unto, for his part only, after the rate of the moneths, 69,900*l.*

For king's favor in deanery of York, 1,000 marks.

Pardon for Alderman, 1,000 marks.

M. Rede, for king's favor to him, in the office of chief justice of common pleas, 400 marks.

Clerk of the peace, Warwick, 40 marks.

Earl Derby's pardon, 6,000*l.*

Poor

³⁷ He was a few months short of 53. He had reigned 23 years 8 montas.

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mother³⁸, breathing the truest filial kindness, though it was not long, he complains, that his sight was impairing, and that he had taken three days to write it³⁹. A severe illness increased upon him during the last few years of his life; but in the Lent before he died, he began to look forward to his next change of existence; and to rectify some points of his conduct, in case he should survive. He told his confessor, that he had determined on three things⁴⁰; 1st, a true reformation of all the officers and ministers of his laws, that justice from thenceforward, might be truly and indifferently executed in all causes; 2d, that the promotions of the church, which were in his disposal, should be thenceforward given to able men, who were virtuous and well learned⁴¹; 3d, that as to those, who

Poor of Christchurch in London, 500 marks, for their free election, restitution, and king's assent.

21 H. VII. Discharge of kidells, mills, &c.; of sir J. S. 300 marks.

Kidell of earl Derby, 20*l*.

—— abbot Peterborough, 93*l*. 6*s*. 8*d*.

Mastership of king's mint, 400 marks.

Weyership of works, 100*l*.

Prior of Christchurch, restitution of temporalities, 900 marks.

License for 1,020 butts of malmsey, and botolarge of same, 391*l*.

Ditto, 900 butts, 500 marks.

To be delivered to king, one carpet, 12 yards long, and 3½ broad, forfeit to him by one Currant, of Exeter.

My lord of Canterbury, for scape of 16 men, convicted, 1,600*l*. and for the restitution of his temporalities, 1,064*l*.

³⁸ Some of his expressions show his good feeling. 'Madam! my most intirely well beloved lady and mother! I recommend me unto you in the most humble and lowly wise that I can, beseeching you of your daily and continual blessings.'—After noticing her requests to him, he adds, 'all which things, according to your desire and pleasure, I have, with all my heart and good will, granted unto you. And, my dame! not only in this, but in all other things that I may know should

be to your honour and pleasure, I shall be as glad to please you, as your heart can desire it; and I know well that I am as much bounden so to do, as any creature living, for the great and singular motherly love and affection that it hath pleased you, at all times, to bear towards me; wherefore, mine own most loving mother! in my most hearty manner, I thank you; beseeching you, for your good continuance in the same.'—Sermon on Margaret, p. 38. It is pleasing to read this effusion of natural sentiment from a king near the age of 50, to his aged parent.

³⁹ He says, 'Verily, madam, my sight is nothing so perfect as it has been, and I know well it will appair daily. Wherefore, I trust, that you will not be displeased, tho' I write not so often with mine own hand; for, on my faith, I have been three days ere I could make an end of this letter.' *Ib.* p. 40.

⁴⁰ I take these facts from the bishop of Rochester's funeral sermon, delivered over his body, on the 10th of May 1509. *Harl. MS.* N° 7,030, p. 209. He discharged all prisoners about the city, that lay for fees or debts under forty shillings. *Bacon*, p. 634.

⁴¹ In a letter to his mother, in which he mentions his desire to make his confessor, Dr. Fisher, a bishop, he says, 'by the promotion of such a man I knew well, it should courage many others to live virtuously, and to

who were in jeopardy from his laws, for things formerly done, he would grant a pardon generally to all. These resolutions imply, that he felt some deficiencies in all these points. He often mentioned to his most confidential attendants, that if it should please the Most High to prolong his life, they should see him a new and a changed man. He acknowledged, with great humility, the singular benefits he had received from the divine favor; and accused himself of ingratitude, in not having more assiduously promoted the honor, and preferred the will and pleasure of that Sovereign⁴², to whom compared, all others are but an insignificant name.

He had been always attentive to his religious duties, according to the fashion of his day. Believing in the efficacy of prayer for his welfare, he had a collect daily said for him in all the churches; and in many years, about Lent, he sent money for 10,000 masses to be recited in his behalf. He gave both daily and annual alms to the poor and needy; and never heard of a virtuous man in his kingdom, but he was anxious for his prayers; and settled on them pensions, some of ten marks; on others ten pounds⁴³.

As his malady advanced he submitted to the Romish ceremony of aneling or anointing, for which he offered every part of his body. He performed his penance with that compunction and those tears, which were then so valued; sometimes weeping and sobbing three-quarters of an hour. The sacrament of the altar, he received with the deepest reverence, advancing to it on his knees. He contemplated the image on the cross, that was held before him, with earnest devotion; holding up his hands; embracing it; and trying to lift up his head, as it approached. For twenty-seven hours the agonies of death were upon him. His pains were fierce and sharp, and almost unceasing. He called repeatedly upon the saviour

to take such ways as he doth. I have, in my days, promoted many a man unadvisedly, and I would now make some recompensation

to promote some good and virtuous men.—
Ex Regist. Col. Jo. Sermon, p. 41.

⁴² Harl. MS. N° 7030. p. 210. ⁴³ Ib.

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saviour he adored, with fervent supplications for ease and succor. "O! my blessed Jesus—O! my Lord! deliver me—deliver my soul from these deadly pangs, from this corruptible body—O! deliver my soul from everlasting death." It pierced the heart of his attending friends, to see his agonies and to hear his groans⁴⁴; at length, the hour of happy release arrived; his corporeal frame became insensible; and his emancipated spirit flew to regions more congenial with its separated nature.

The encomium of the affectionate bishop, is warm, but seems not exaggerated⁴⁵. The less partial and more frigid chroniclers, are little less commendatory⁴⁶. His pleasing countenance interested his subjects⁴⁷; and his manners and qualities displayed the genuine virtues of a wise Christian and kingly heart⁴⁸. In danger prompt, self-present and determined; his spirit always rose to the necessary energy; and devised and performed what the exigence demanded. It was his firm and lofty wish always to look his perils in the face, and to deal with them hand to hand⁴⁹.

His regard for trade was attested, not only by his laws for its benefit,

⁴⁴ Harl. MS. p. 212—217.

⁴⁵ 'His politique wisdom in governance it was singular; his wit always quick and ready, pythly and substantial; his memory fresh and holding; his experience notable; his counsels fortunate, and taken by wise deliberation; his speech gracious in divers languages; his person goodly and amiable; his natural complexion of the purest mixture. His mighty power was dreaded every where, not only within his realms, but without also. His dealing, in time of perils and dangers, was cold and sober, with great hardiness.' Fun. Sermon. Harl. MS. 7030. p. 208.

⁴⁶ Thus Grafton. 'Of wit, in all things, quick and prompt; of a princely stomach and haute courage. In great perils, doubtful affrays, and matters of weighty importance, supernatural, and in a manner divine. Such things as he went about, he did advisedly, and not without great deliberation and breathing.' P. 948.

⁴⁷ In his progresses, his person is thus described by Grafton,—'Of body but lean and spare, albeit, mighty and strong therewith; of personage and stature, somewhat higher than the meane sort of men be; of a wonderful beauty and fair complexion; of countenance merry and smiling, especially in his communications; his eyes gray, his hair thin.' p. 948.

⁴⁸ 'He was sober, moderate, honest, affable, courteous, and bounteous.' Bern. Andreas, the preceptor of his son Arthur, describes him in three neat lines;

'Princeps, ingenio nitente præstans;
Fama; religione; comitate;
Sensu; sanguine; gratia; decore.'

MSS. Domit, and in Speed's Hist. p. 740.

⁴⁹ Speed, p. 755. To please the citizens of London, and to honour trade, he became a member of the Merchant Taylors company. Ib. 748.

benefit, but by his personal and disinterested kindnesses to those who conducted it⁵⁰; and was rewarded by the augmented affluence and sustained prosperity of the country⁵¹. He accepted the offer of Columbus, to make his adventurous voyage; and would have patronized it, if he had not been forestalled by Isabella⁵². He gave his sanction to the maritime expedition of the Cabots, which discovered Newfoundland⁵³; and which was at Henry's expence⁵⁴; and also to other adventurers⁵⁵. He favored every national improvement, that was then understood or pursued; and fulfilled his own early wishes, of ruling for the benefit of his subjects. No preceding sovereign had so well or so abundantly combined the personal, moral, political and intellectual qualities, of the true English king. His real character seems to have been, sedate thought, well governed mind, calm temper, active spirit, extensive foresight, large views and enlightened judgment. His feelings were subjected to his reason. Early adversity had excited energy, but subdued

⁵⁰ Thus Grafton says, that to the merchants 'he, himself, of his own goodness, lent money largely, *without any gain or profit*, to the intent that merchandize, being of all crafts the chief art, and to all men both most profitable and necessary, might be the more plentifully used, haunted, and employed, in his realms.' p. 949.

⁵¹ 'He, by his high policy, marvellously enriched his realm and himself; and yet left his subjects in high wealth and prosperity. The proof whereof is apparent, by the great abundance of gold and silver yearly brought into this realm, both in plate, money, and bullion, by merchants passing and repassing with merchandize.' Graft. 949.

⁵² The son of Columbus states, in his life of his father, that Columbus sent his brother Bartholomew to Henry VII. to offer his service in a voyage of discovery; who, on the 13th of February 1488 (1489), made a map of the world, and presented it to Henry. The king accepted his proposal, 'con allegro volto,' with a cheerful countenance; and sent

to call him; but before Columbus heard of the success, he had engaged himself to Isabella. Hakluyt's voyages, 1, p. 507—8.

⁵³ Henry's letters patent to John Cabot, a Venetian, and his sons Sebastian and Sancho, to sail to all parts of the world under his flag, with five ships, to discover new countries, and to take possession of them as his governors and deputies, paying him one-fifth of their profits; and to import their merchandize free of all custom duties, is dated the 5th of March 1496. Rym. Fed. 12. p. 595. It was in the summer of 1496, that Sebastian Cabot says, that he sailed. Hackluyt, p. 512.

⁵⁴ So Baptiste Ramusius says, that S. Cabot wrote to him, 'at the charges of king Henry VII.' Hakl. 513. Gomara also mentions, that the ships were rigged at Henry's costs. Ib. 514. So Fabian.

⁵⁵ On the 9th of December 1502, a patent was granted to Hugh Eliot and Thomas Ashurst, merchants of Bristol; and to Jean and Gonzales Fernandez, Portuguese, to search for new countries. 13 Rym. 37.

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subdued enthusiasm. Danger made him cautious, but not cowardly. He never enterprized beyond his power of achieving. He never risked the possessed, for any superior but uncertain good. His habits were domestic and moral. His social demeanor easy, kind and interesting. He made religion a principle, a duty and an habit; and he found it his best refuge, an unfailing consolation, and his most permanent felicity. But state policy, and the resenting struggles of attacked power, sometimes broke into the unity of his moral rectitude; and have left blots, which if he had not been violently placed in his high station, would not have disfigured him. Yet the clemency and forbearing sagacity, with which he met rebellion by amnesties, and by limited severities after its suppression, exhibited a new feature in the use of kingly authority, and became a legacy of wisdom to his successors. He preferred to correct, by the milder punishment of pecuniary penalties, than to mutilate the body, doom it to imprisonment, or take away life⁵⁶; but the introduction of this improvement in our legislation, instead of being referred to his discerning policy, or to his philanthropy, has been imputed only to his avarice, and stigmatised as rapacity⁵⁷. Whoever transcends his age, must expect to be censured by those whom he excels. Yet, the nation felt his value, and became steadily attached to his family; and improved

⁵⁶ Thus, in 1498, Henry sent commissioners to pardon the adherents of Perkin and the Cornish leader, on their compounding for their lives by paying fines. See the commission in 12 Rym. p. 696, &c. This mild commutation of the death of treason, for the light punishment of a pecuniary penalty, deserves more applause than it has received.

⁵⁷ It is surprizing to read, in sir William Blackstone, as characterizing all his reign, that 'his ministers, not to say the king himself, were more industrious in hunting out prosecutions *upon old* and forgotten penal laws, in order to extort money from the subject, than in framing *any new* beneficial regu-

lations. In short, there is hardly a statute in this reign, introductive of a new law, or modifying the old, but what, either directly or obliquely, tended to the emolument of the exchequer.' V. 4, p. 429. These sentences, not very consistent, lead us to suppose, that our elegant commentator had forgotten this king's laws, when he framed these censures. But even Bacon himself has written Henry's life, in many parts, more like the attorney general of James I. than that immortal philosopher, whose name is associated with all that we most respect in English mind, and value in true science. A succinct review of Henry's laws will show both their objects and utilities.

improved under their government, far more than under any prior dynasty. His direct male line ceased in queen Elizabeth; but the descendants of his daughter Margaret succeeded in the Stewarts. The superior Brunswick line, which has given a stability to our civil and religious liberties, and advanced our national progression and accomplishments, is also, through her, a branch of Henry's descendants.

SUBSTANCE OF THE LAWS OF HENRY VII.

IT is lord Verulam's just remarks on Henry's legislation, that 'his laws are deep; not vulgar: not made upon the spur of a particular occasion, for the present; but acts of providence of the future: to make the estate of his people still more and more happy; after the manner of the legislators in ancient and heroical times¹.'

To divest his great men of that armed force which, by retaining or enlisting large retinues under their family liveries or badges, they had always ready for their violent purposes; and to destroy those means and seminaries of rebellious sedition, he pursued Richard's system of prohibiting both the giving and receiving any retainers; and he caused the lords and commons to swear, not to receive or aid any felon, or retain any man, or give liveries, signs or tokens; nor make or assent to any riots or unlawful assembly; nor impede the king's writs; nor bail any felon², or liveries. He constituted, or revived in a more effective shape, a new legal tribunal—the Star chamber, by which three of his cabinet ministers, calling to their aid a bishop and two justices, were authorized to punish all misdoers in a summary way, according to the existing statutes, but without being convicted in due form of law³. To this new engine of legal power, which, from the indefinite and arbitrary authority it assumed, became afterwards peculiarly oppressive, was committed the repression of all giving of liveries, tokens

and retainers, and unlawful maintenance; and of all riots and lawless assemblies. The retaining of any of the king's tenants, was also forbidden⁴; and new penal provisions were enacted against all disturbances of the peace, by riotous and illegal assemblies, under-servants, receivers, stewards, or bailiffs of lordships⁵.

Human life was taken more vigilantly under the care of the crown; and its safety was enhanced, and a deeper sense of its value produced, by judicial protection. An act passed, reciting, that murders were daily committed; and that the people in towns, who saw the violence, would not arrest the murderers. The coroners were therefore commanded to execute diligently, their duty of inspecting and inquiring into all violent deaths; and murderers were to be arraigned and tried, without delay⁶. The female sex were further guarded, by its being made felony to take them away against their will; and by subjecting the procurers and receivers to the same penalty⁷.

The negligence and misconduct of justices of the peace were reprobated. They were ordered to have the king's proclamation on their duties, read at the sessions four times a year; and all persons aggrieved, whom they would not redress, were directed to complain to the judge on the assize, or to the chancellor, or to the king⁸. The power given by Richard, to every justice to bail, having been

P. 596. ² 6 Rolls Parl. 287—8. ³ Statutes of the Realm, V. 2, p. 509, 10.

⁴ Ib. 522. ⁵ Ib. 573, 657. ⁶ Ib. 510, 11. ⁷ Ib. 512. ⁸ Ib. 537.

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been abused, the concurrence of two justices was made necessary⁹; and the powers of these magistrates were extended to punish for the offence of unlawful assemblies, retainers, and giving liveries and signs¹⁰, and to regulate ale-houses¹¹. After stating that the king peculiarly desired the prosperity and restfulness of the land, a statute was made, directing, that all idle vagabonds, and persons living suspiciously, should be set in the stocks for three days, and put out of the district; and that all beggars should be sent to their last or usual residence, or place of birth. No clerk of an university was to be excused from this law, unless he could produce his chancellor's letters; nor sailor, without his captain's; nor any traveller, without a document from the town where he had landed¹².

All these provisions had the same object in view, that of promoting and maintaining the public peace; and of repressing, in every part, and from every class of the nation, all illegal violences and wrongs. But the great and sagacious blow that was secretly given to the injurious power of the great, was by coinciding with the temporary desire of some, which the king's foresight perceived would continually increase, of disposing of their possessions as they pleased. The great aristocracy of the country had been chiefly made and upheld, by binding the immediate possessor from alienating his land by these strong chains of the feudal entails, with which every estate was fettered, and by the operation of which it descended from heir to heir, little impaired, and often accumulating. Henry's wise plan was, to let the nobility break down their own landed power as much as they chose, by allowing them to dispose of their possessions as they wished. This wise plan had the merit of law giving efficiency to inclination, which is always pleasing, and not, as it is often obliged to do, of imposing disagreeable command. Hence more facility

was given to the alienation of landed property: and especially by that statute which made the proceeding, called by lawyers, Fines, that had been invented before to counteract the effect of the feudal entails, an effective and conclusive bar to all hostile claimants, after five years had expired¹³. This act made future alienations of landed property, under this form of assurance, so binding, as to give that security to future purchasers, which encouraged them to buy; and commerce multiplying the means of purchase, and the necessities of the landed interest disposing them to sell, many a large estate became gradually divided among a number of smaller proprietors, by whom the state was no longer endangered. The wants of the age called for such a legislative provision; and regal prudence gladly adopted it.

It was an important privilege granted to the inferior classes, of admitting the poor to sue in forma pauperis¹⁴. This threw open, to the most needy, the gates of legal redress against a rich oppressor. It was no less humane than important to the stability of the throne, to enact, that no person who served the reigning king in war, should be attainted of treason¹⁵. The extortions of sheriffs and under-sheriffs were repressed¹⁶. That every proprietor of land might enjoy his sport, no man was to take pheasants or partridges on another's estate without his leave; nor to take, even on his own ground, eggs of hawks or swans, nor to bear certain English hawks, nor to import foreign hawks¹⁷. This may be called the foundation of our game laws. The public morals were attended to, in the prohibition of apprentices and artificers from games and diversions that were found to be connected with vice¹⁸. Usury was discountenanced¹⁹. Fraudulent deeds of gift, to cheat creditors, were made void²⁰. Delays of final redress by writs of error, were lessened²¹. To keep the air of populous places pure,

⁹ Statutes of the Realm, V. 2, p. 513.

¹⁰ Ib. 573. ¹¹ Ib. 569. ¹² Ib. 569, 656.

¹³ Ib. 547. Persons in the king's service were allowed to make feoffments to the uses of their wills, without fines.

¹⁴ Statutes of the Realm, V. 2, p. 578.

¹⁵ Ib. 568.

¹⁶ Ib. 579, 654.

¹⁷ Ib. 581.

¹⁸ Ib. 569.

¹⁹ Ib. 574.

²⁰ Ib. 514.

²¹ Ib. 519.

pure, butchers were forbidden to kill animals within walled towns²². An act passed, to encourage an English population in the Isle of Wight²³, in which it is mentioned, that many towns and villages had decayed, and the fields diked and made pastures. No one was to take more farms than one, exceeding ten marks in rent. To check the growing evil of pulling down towns, and laying lands into pasture; by which, in many parts, two or three herdsmen only were living, where 200 persons had pursued their lawful labours; it was enacted, that all owners of houses, with twenty acres of land, should maintain the houses and buildings necessary for tillage²⁴; and an attempt was made to regulate the prices of labour, which was afterwards abandoned²⁵. Many other provisions were made for the general convenience. Perjury and corruption in officers, was severely pursued²⁶. The fraud of the great or gentry, who had covenanted with the king to find a certain number of soldiers, taking full pay for a less quantity, and withholding, even from these, their just wages, was visited by forfeiture and imprisonment²⁷. From a policy not immediately comprehensible, as larger dealing usually increases and improves production, valuable horses were not to be transported beyond the seas, without a license, nor any mare above the price of 6*s.* 8*d.*²⁸. Wars becoming less suitable to the taste of the age, the heads of the law, the masters of the rolls, clerks of chancery, the judges, barons of the exchequer, attorney and solicitor-general, were released from the obligation to attend

them²⁹. The qualifications of jurors were diminished to 10*s.*³⁰. But what seems to strike at the root of all independent use of their important functions, jurors were to be prosecuted by writs of attain for untrue verdicts, where the value exceeded 40*l.*³¹. Some gross cases of corrupt use of their powers, must have occasioned an enactment so dangerous. But it was a valuable addition to the effective jurisprudence of the nation, that similar processes might be had in actions on the case, as in trespass and debt³². What are technically called Actions on the Case, present the most comprehensive means of obtaining redress for personal and pecuniary wrongs, that the English law can provide. To relieve his people from the grievance of their property being taken, as formerly done, for the maintenance of the royal household, he obtained a fixed revenue from assigned funds for his expense, and for his wardrobe³³.

Some regulations were made for the peculiar benefit of the crown and its officers. The steward, treasurer, and comptroller of the king's household, received authority to inquire into offences committed in it; and especially of conspiracies by the king's servants to murder him, his counsellors or great officers³⁴. The patent grants of the yeomen and grooms of the crown, who did not give attendance, were made revocable at the king's pleasure³⁵. Several legal privileges were granted to those who went abroad in the king's wars³⁶; and he was empowered to make void all grants of land to persons who should neglect to attend him in his wars³⁷.

HENRY'S LAWS ON TRADE AND NAVIGATION.

THE wars and factions of the great and turbulent; the excitement they caused, the necessities they created, the supplies they needed, and the aversion to their disasters, which increased as these multiplied, made

both internal and external trade more popular, beneficial and important, in the reign of Henry VII. As in Richard's time, we find the nation pursuing its commercial voyages towards the north pole, as far as Iceland; so, under

²² Statutes of the Realm, V. 2, p. 527.

²⁵ Ib. 584, 9.

³¹ Ib. 588, 649.

³⁴ Statutes of the Realm, V. 2, p. 521.

²⁷ Ib. 549.

³² Ib. 693.

²³ Ib. 540.

²⁸ Ib. 578.

³³ Parl. Rolls, 6, p. 299.

³⁵ Ib. 533.

²⁴ Ib. 542.

²⁹ Ib. 582.

³⁶ Ib. 550.

²⁵ Ib. 637.

³⁰ Ib. 590.

³⁷ Ib. 648.

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under Henry VII. we find them trafficking in the Mediterranean with the Venetians, in the Isle of Candia; and maintaining commercial relations with Italy, Spain, Flanders, France, Germany, and the Hanse Towns; all which places had agents and establishments in England³⁸. The attention of Henry was directed to favor all mercantile enterprise, as far as the experience and judgment of commercial men then thought expedient; and more laws were made on trade during his reign, than on any other single subject. The true principles of commerce could not indeed, at that time, have been understood; we ascend to these from a practical indurance of evils, which gradually disclose to us our errors, as well as from the enjoyment of the benefits which better systems impart. It is a natural but a slow process of the human mind, to discover on what rules and actions good and evil depend; and all the regulations and conduct of our trade, during the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, were but experiments aiming usually at some immediate good, from which later times were to discern and to deduce those true principles of commerce, which it is now the common interest of mankind to establish universally. Our ancestors were but exploring their ground, opening channels; and feeling cautiously their way. They were labouring amid ignorance, prejudice, obscurity, and obstacles of all sorts; and they deserve our applause for what they atchieved, rather than our censure for what they mistook, or were unable to command or to rectify.

But Henry appears to have steadily enforced that great principle of our navigation laws, the bringing foreign produce in British ships, which has so powerfully contributed to

the superiority of our navy. This rule has made the growth of our naval strength bear always a due proportion to our commerce. Hence, upon the allegation that our navy was decaying, and our mariners idle, it was enacted, that all Gascony wines and Thoulouse wood, should be imported in English ships only; and that the masters and mariners should be subjects of England. It was also directed, that no natives should freight alien ships, if English ones could be had³⁹.

In his regulations of the woollen trade there appears an anxiety to confine the manufacture of the raw article to English workmen; hence no one was to buy wool before the middle of August, except those who made yarn or cloth of it⁴⁰. And no foreigner was to carry any out of the country, until it had received that degree of manufacture which is called barbed, rowed, and shorne. The prices of cloth and hats were limited⁴¹. Thus, our silk manufactures were encouraged, by prohibiting foreigners from bringing in girdles, ribbands, laces, called silk or Cologne silk, thrown or wrought⁴². The citizens of London were authorized to carry all manner of goods to foreign markets⁴³. The corporation ordinance, that no freeman of the city should go to any market or fair to sell, that all buyers might be compelled to resort to London, was made void⁴⁴. Oppressive usury, and unlawful bargains, were discouraged⁴⁵. Denizens were ordered to pay custom and subsidies⁴⁶. Richard had compelled the Italian merchants to sell only in gross, Henry allowed them to retail⁴⁷. Brokers were punished for unlawful dealing⁴⁸.

To prevent frauds in the weight and working of the gold brought from Venice, Florence, and Genoa, the pound was not to be less than 12 ounces

³⁸ The parliament, in 1487, levied a capitation tax of 6s. 8d. on every artificer who had not been born in England, or made a denizen, if a householder; and 2s. on all who were not householders, except servants in husbandry; and 20s. on those who were brewers. And from every Venetian, Italian, Genoese, Florentine, Milanese, Catalonian, Albertine, and Lombard merchant, broker,

or factor, if he had a house three months, 40s.; and if not an householder, 20s. Rolls Parl. 6, p. 402.

³⁹ Stat. of the Realm, p. 535.

⁴⁰ Ib.

⁴¹ Ib. 533, 554.

⁴² Ib. 506, 664.

⁴³ Ib. 518.

⁴⁴ Ib.

⁴⁵ Ib. 515, 574.

⁴⁶ Ib. 501.

⁴⁷ Ib. 508.

⁴⁸ Ib. 515.

12 ounces; and the metal was not to be packed differently from its outward show.⁴⁹

To encourage our fishermen, foreigners were forbidden to sell salmon or other fish.⁵⁰ No arts or trade were to prejudice the merchants of the Hanse, who had, in London, their own Guildhall.⁵¹ Englishmen were allowed to resort to the marts of Flanders, and to deal there freely, without any other exaction, than one payment of ten marks.⁵² And to countervail a tax levied by the Venetians, upon wine, an equal imposition was placed on the malmsey, which foreigners brought into England.⁵³

The permission to the chancellor to grant commissions of sewers, was enlarged for 25 years.⁵⁴ Measures and weights of brass were sent to every chief town and borough, to become standards,⁵⁵ and none were to sell but by these.⁵⁶ Upholders were punished for stuffing feather beds with improper feathers.⁵⁶ Itinerant pewterers were forbidden, to prevent thieving.⁵⁷ The rule of the river Thames,

from Staines to Yenlade, was given to the lord mayor.⁵⁸

The coin became an object of his attention; a new coinage was circulated. The forging of foreign money, that was current in the kingdom, was made treason.⁵⁹ It was deemed of great importance to keep the precious metals forcibly in the country; few being then aware, that bullion is a flowing commodity of trade, like any other article in demand; and therefore, money was ordered not to be carried out of the country for goods brought into it.⁶⁰ No one was to pay to foreigners, by way of exchange, any gold, coin, plate, or bullion.⁶¹ And by a subsequent law, the exportation of these was limited to the small sum of six shillings and eight pence.⁶²

To secure the payment of the custom duties, merchants were not to carry goods from one port to another, without a certificate from the customs where the goods had been first entered.⁶³

⁴⁹ Stat. of the Realm, p. 546.

⁵⁰ Ib. 587.

⁵¹ Ib. 665.

⁵² Ib. 639.

⁵³ Ib. 553.

⁵⁴ Ib. 526.

⁵⁵ Ib. 551, 570.

⁵⁶ Ib. 582.

⁵⁷ Ib. 651.

⁵⁸ Ib. 139.

⁵⁹ Ib. 541.

⁶⁰ Ib. 517.

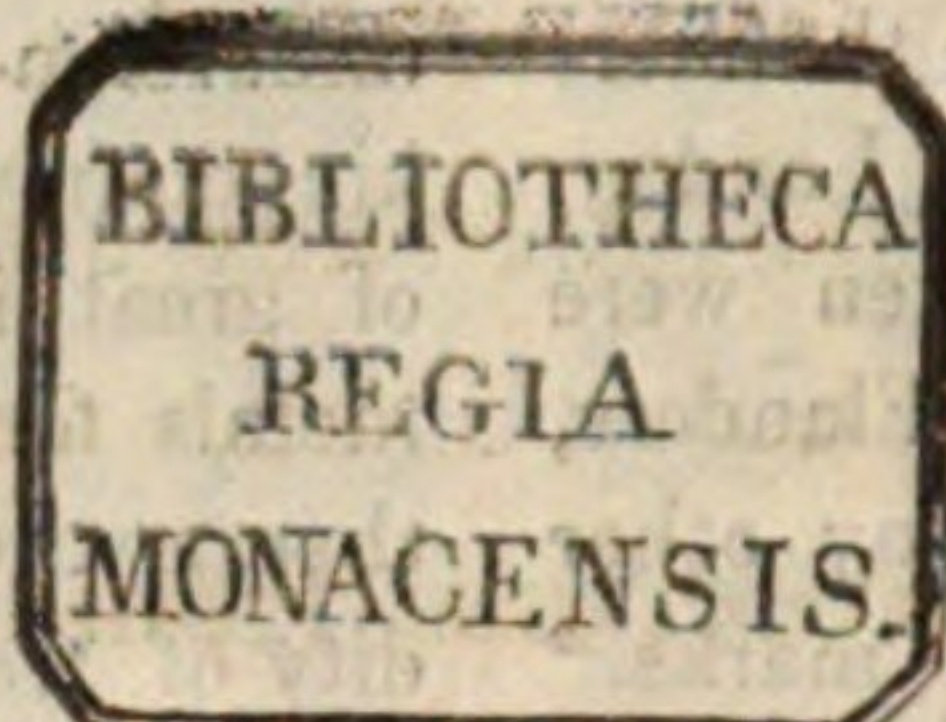
⁶¹ Ib. 546.

⁶² Ib. 651.

⁶³ Ib. 516.

FINIS.







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